THE TIMES

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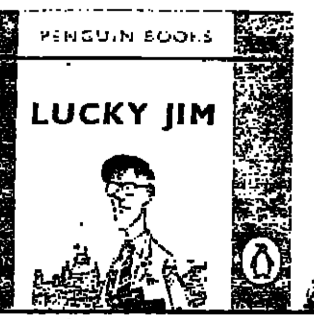

A BAD WEEK TO BE FAMOUS

Richard Morrison on Claudia, Clint and celebrity stress, PAGE 19

MONDAY

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Cardinal had been given guarantees of innocence

Church condemns bishop's betrayal

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent, and Richard Owen in Rome

THE scandal of the runaway bishop, Roderick Wright, deepened last night as church leaders condemned his betrayal and demanded that he come forward and confess.

Cardinal Thomas Winning, head of Scotland's Roman Catholics, said that he felt doubly abandoned by the disclosure that Mr Wright — who is thought to be in hiding with a divorced mother of three — had a 15-year-old son by another woman.

He is particularly enraged because he confronted Mr Wright about rumours of an affair three years ago and was given "cast-iron guarantees" of his innocence.

Cardinal Winning said: "I weep for the mother and child and the way they have been treated, but I have been so duped by events of the last few days that I don't know what to believe any more. I feel as betrayed as anybody in all this and I know what people are feeling because I am feeling exactly the same."

Mr Wright resigned as Bishop of Argyll and the Isles last weekend, having been missing for almost a week. He is believed to be with Kathleen Macphee, but yesterday Joanne Whibley, the mother of his son Kevin, said that she had been expecting him to set up home with her in Sussex. Miss Whibley, who had refused to believe that he was with Mrs Macphee, said: "I still love him."

The Church, however, is "intensely angered and ashamed" by the behaviour of the man who is now referred to coldly as "Mr Wright". Its spokesman, Father Tom Connelly, said that the former bishop was behaving like "the second Lord Lucan", adding: "We have been duped by a tissue of lies."

Rome also broke its silence on the affair yesterday, describing the disclosure about Mr Wright's son as a terrible blow to the Church. The Vatican had previously confined itself to a one-sentence statement announcing that the Pope had accepted the bishop's resignation. But yesterday Archbishop John Foley, head of the Vatican's public communications office, said: "An individual at the highest level of responsibility has totally betrayed his trust."

The Most Rev Keith O'Brien, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, feared that yet more scandal might emerge. "When one opens a can of worms, one just doesn't realise what's at the bottom of it," he said. "This Roddy Wright has had a weakness with regard to sexuality and there's always the possibility of other revelations."

Cardinal Winning meanwhile demanded that the former bishop come forward and explain why he accepted his post, knowing what lay in his past. He said he could not understand how Mr Wright had survived the "very, very strict" scrutiny process undertaken at the time of his appointment.

The cardinal also described how he had confronted Mr Wright over allegations that he was involved with a woman three years ago: "We went to see him and had a long discussion about it. We put it to him what had been told to us of his involvement. We received a categorical denial and a guarantee not only was it untrue, but it was scurrilous."

Faced with that denial, there was little the Church could do, the cardinal said. But he added: "You don't forget these things, all the same. You live in fear of a nightmare, perhaps, but that seemed to recede because we had these guarantees. Unfortunately, the nightmare is on us now."

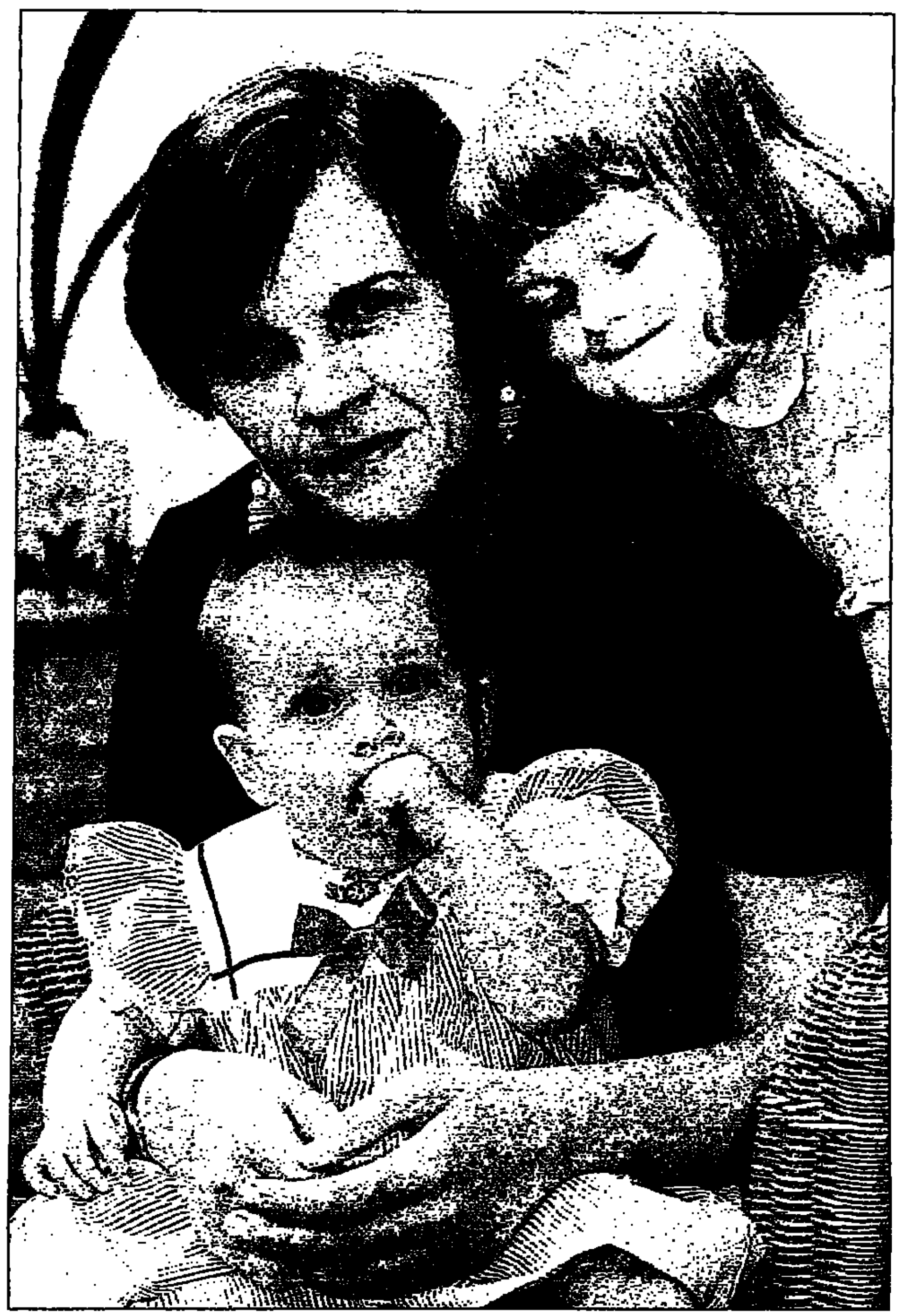
While the Vatican conceded that the Wright disclosures were a serious blow, Archbishop Foley said yesterday that it did not affect the integrity of the priesthood and insisted that the rule demanding priestly celibacy was not open to question.

Priests' training gave them adequate time to think of the consequences of the lifetime commitment they were making, he said: "Most candidates prepare for five to ten years, which is a lot longer than most people who get engaged or married." He did, however, accept that the Catholic clergy were under tremendous stress on a variety of social and sexual matters and thought that more could be done to prepare priests for maintaining a celibate life.

Dr Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the chief Vatican spokesman who is in France with the Pope, also said that the Pope's views on celibacy were firm and unchanging. It was not a personal doctrine of the Pope, but a doctrine of the whole Church, so only the whole Church could change it.

Hotline plea

The mother of Rodney Wright's 15-year-old son yesterday called on the Roman Catholic Church to establish a hotline to help families in her position. Joanne Whibley was sure the Church would "want to take care" ....Page 3



Adrianna Alsworth with her daughters Catherine, three, and Francesca, eight months. She says their father is Dermot O'Gorman, a Catholic priest. Page 3

Luvvie is a term of abuse, say the stage folk

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

ONE of Britain's leading directors, Trevor Nunn, has declared war on the word "luvvie". It is, he said, "as appalling and abhorrent as any racist word".

"It's a word that's had a deadly impact," he told *Vogue*. "I think it's a word as disgusting as the word 'yid' or 'nigger'. It categorises everyone of a particular grouping as the same; and not only categorises them, but patronises them and puts them down. It's a word that says you are hysterical, trivial, under-educated, self-indulgent, absolutely regardless of your background, education, lifestyle or manner."

Sir Peter Hall, the artistic director of The Old Vic, agreed. "It's a word invented by philistines who don't know how hard-working, professional and supportive of each other actors have to be."

The word was coined in 1991 by Ian Hislop, editor of *Private Eye*, who was inspired by his friend John Sessions's use of it. Stars of *Private Eye*'s "Luvvies" column have included Kate Winslet, who played Marianne in *Sense and Sensibility* and who gushingly described how she first met Emma Thompson: "She opened the door and said, 'Hi, you must be Kate. I'm Emma. I've just got to go for a wee. I'll see you in a minute' and I thought, 'I love her'."

Mr Hislop said: "How can they equate the use of luvvies with racist abuse? What an utterly fatuous remark. Trevor Nunn and others are obviously desperate to prove that luvvies are as ridiculous as we think they are.

"Luvvies at their worst seem to imagine that their lives are more scarey and more complex than ordinary life can ever hope to be. It's the vocabulary that they use about danger which rather overvalues what they do and undervalues what most people do — people such as social workers, psychiatric-helpers or UN peacekeepers, who could be described as having dangerous jobs."

The actor Nigel Hawthorne said the word was "used by people who aren't in-the-know. Actors loathe it. It's the same as queer or gay applied to homosexuals. People don't like to be categorised."

Lord Attenborough said: "I agree with Trevor." But, he added: "I have never called anyone 'luvvie'. 'Darling' maybe."

Woman, 73, found dead after rape

A WOMAN aged 73 who was raped while out for a stroll yesterday was found dead soon after she left hospital.

Lincolnshire police said that the woman's body was found by her daughter at her home in Tetney, near Grimsby, after she had been released from hospital.

Her attacker was the target of a manhunt last night: she had been able to describe him after the rape. The police said the incident was not being treated as murder at this stage because the cause of death had yet to be established.

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Bulgaria 'tried to kill its UN envoy'

From James Bone in New York

BULGARIA'S Ambassador to the United Nations has publicly denounced his country's Socialist-led Government and suggested that it might have tried to kill him.

Slavi Pashovsky, an anti-Communist appointed by President Zhelev, said pro-Communist ministers elected in January 1995 were trying to sideline him in violation of the country's constitution.

The Ambassador's outburst was triggered by the Government's decision not to include him on its list of official delegates for the current session of the UN General Assembly. But he complained about a possible assassination attempt and drew a parallel with the 1978 murder of the Bulgarian dissident Georgi Markov, killed by a poison-tipped umbrella on London's Waterloo Bridge.

"Let us . . . put an end to the infamy of the 'Bulgarian umbrella' once and for all," Mr Pashovsky wrote in an open letter to Zhan Videnov, the Prime Minister, Georgi Pirinsky, Foreign Minister, and another minister.

At a press conference, Mr Pashovsky recounted how, when Bulgaria's anti-Communist President refused to bow to pressure to remove him from his post, somebody tampered with his car by cutting the connectors to his steering wheel.

"We have a long history of political violence," he said. "We have to stop this."

He complained that his Government had sent him a "cook" who, despite a sizeable salary that would support a whole village in Bulgaria, did not cook, calling the arrangment "very strange".

He also reported a suspected assassination attempt against another anti-Communist who was serving as Bulgaria's Ambassador in Albania.

The Foreign Ministry in Sofia, which is controlled by the Socialist-led Government, said Mr Pashovsky's allegations were "worthy of pity" and called on him to resign.

Horse kicks Carson in the stomach

WILLIE CARSON was seriously injured when a filly kicked him in the stomach at Newbury. The jockey, who suffered deep lacerations to the liver, spent last night in intensive care at North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke.

The incident happened in the paddock as the jockey prepared to mount an unraced horse, which whipped round and lashed out at him. Carson, 53, fell and lay motionless as paramedics reached him ..Page 45

Carson: liver lacerated

Police to clamp down on links with Freemasons

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

ALL police officers will be asked to declare whether they are Freemasons under tough new plans being prepared by chief constables to curb the organisation's links with forces.

Any officer who reveals he is a Freemason or a member of any other semi-secret organisation would have the details enterd on a force register of interests. The declarations will be voluntary but if an officer stays silent and later faces allegations involving Freemasonry, his silence would count against him.

Chief constables are also planning to issue strongly-worded guidance to all officers on their membership of or their intention to join a masonic lodge. The guidance will make it clear that officers must avoid membership of any group which might lead to questions over their impartiality.

Officials from the association have also held talks with the Freemason's Grand Lodge and been given an assurance that they would be given help in discovering if an officer under investigation was a mason.

The guidance and the instructions on the register of interests will be carefully phrased and will not only cover the Freemasons but include other secretive societies.

The plans will go before a national council of all 43 chief constables in England and Wales next month and will then be put to staff associations. Sources at the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) believe the junior ranks, led by the Police Federation, will accept the policy. However, three years ago the federation's annual conference rejected a motion calling for officers to declare their membership.

Many senior officers believe that the influence of the Freemasons is declining. Only a handful of chief constables are said to be members and no senior official within Acpo is a member nor any officer at the top level of Scotland Yard. But there are still strong links among lower ranks.

A separate lodge was formed by Scotland Yard officers in the 1980s when Sir Kenneth Newman, the then Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, was urging his force to be careful about joining the Freemasons.

One chief constable said yesterday: "It is important that the fact an officer is a mason should be seen before any allegations are made. Our point is if you are a member of an organisation which is above board, nothing is lost by declaring it."

Last night Michael Hyams, grand secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England, said he did not think Freemasons should be singled out. They are not, he said, a secret society. He said membership was part of private life and even police officers were entitled to a private life.

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Labour to scrap child benefit from 16

By Arthur Leathley
Political Correspondent

THE Labour leadership last night braced itself for a backlash from party activists after it pressed ahead with plans to scrap child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, announced that the weekly benefit would be replaced under a Labour government by a means-tested education allowance paid only to low and middle-income families. High-earning families would be prevented from claiming, but Labour will not announce the earnings threshold until after the November Budget.

The new allowance, to be paid to parents of those between 16 and 18 on school or college courses, would be topped up by an extra payment for families in greatest need.

Although Mr Brown said that the "millionaire family of an Etonian sixth-former" would receive no allowance he would not say how many others would lose existing benefits. He would not confirm reports that those entitled to the extra payment could receive more than double the £10.80 currently paid for the first child. Precise figures could not be assessed until after the November Budget, but Mr Brown promised full details before the party published its general election manifesto.

"I cannot justify a situation where, if I represent the hard-working taxpayers of this country, the son or daughter of a millionaire who sends his or her child to Eton or to another private school can claim child benefit when half the mothers of teenagers do not receive it."

Opponents of the scheme said yesterday that if the earnings threshold was set too high, it would not provide enough new money to redistribute among the poorest families. Labour leaders recognise, however, that setting too low a threshold could alienate many middle-income families fearing they will lose their benefit.

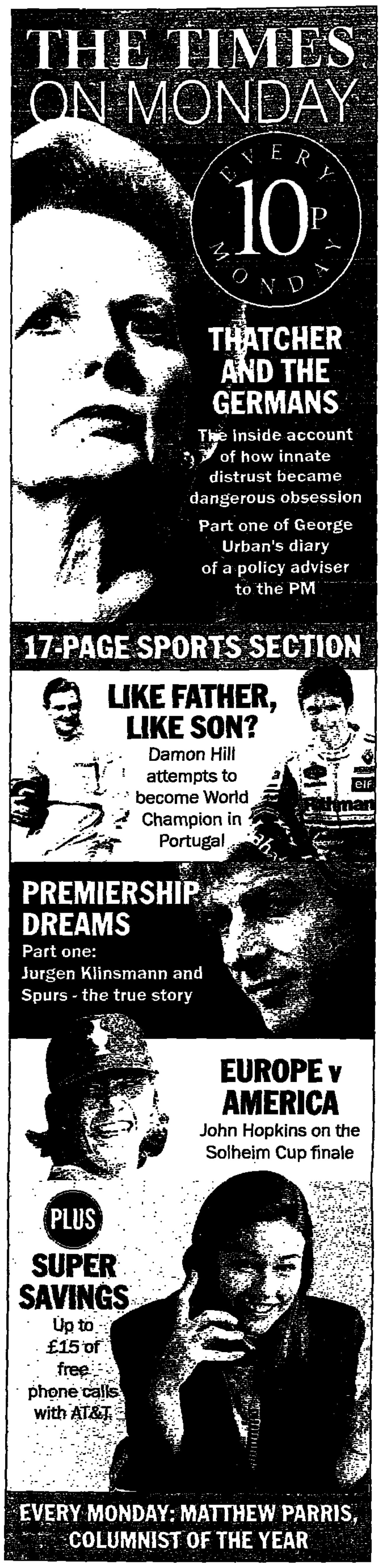
The changes, which have prompted divisions among shadow Cabinet members, has attracted dozens of critical motions for debate at the party's annual conference at the end of the month. Activists are alarmed that the decision to scrap post-16 child benefit may herald further changes to payments for younger children.

Lynne Jones, left-wing Labour MP for Birmingham, Sellyoak, said: "There will be a fairly vigorous debate and I would not like to predict the outcome." The moves also came under attack from welfare campaign groups, who said the redistribution would create confusion and greater bureaucracy.

Mr Brown said that the £600 million saved on child benefit, together with £400 million saved from the abolition of Youth Training schemes, would "revolutionise post-16 education". The Shadow Chancellor has fought off opposition, particularly from Chris Smith, the former social security spokesman. Colleagues said the changes would be derided by Tories as a "tax on teenagers".

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, seized on the moves as proof that Labour was still a tax and spend party. "New Labour's plans to end child benefit for children staying in school would mean a new teenage tax, a new means-test and a penalty on further education," he said in a statement. "If Labour refuses to recognise the cost to families of children in school after 16, they have no logical reason to recognise the cost to families of children in school under 16.

Child benefit, at £10.80 for the first child and £8.80 for other children, is paid to mothers of all children under 16 but only to mothers of 16 to 18-year-olds in education.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Brussels rules out end to ban on UK beef

By Andrew Pierce and Charles Bremner

THE European Union's ban on the export of British beef will not be lifted for the foreseeable future, Franz Fischler, the EU Farm Commissioner, said yesterday.

"As long as they do not meet the pre-conditions, then an end to the export ban is simply not a possibility," said Herr Fischler. His statement reflected the scorn and indifference in Europe that has greeted the British decision to opt for a lesser cattle cull than that agreed at the Florence summit in June after it was suggested that "mad cow disease" could be linked to the human brain disease CJD.

The Brussels Commission gave warning that British hopes of winning an early exemption from the ban for certain herds in Northern Ireland and elsewhere would come to nothing until the original selective slaughter was started.

John Major appealed in vain yesterday for an end to the "hysteria" in Europe surrounding BSE, and a return to rational debate over the lifting of the export ban. Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Secretary, admitted that the prospect of a Tory revolt had been a decisive factor in the decision to suspend the cull.

Germany, the EU state which has taken the toughest line against Britain throughout the BSE crisis, led a wave of condemnation for what officials depicted as the Cabinet's "incomprehensible" decision to renege on the undertaking, made last June in Florence, to start a selective slaughter. "A unilateral change by the British government is not acceptable," said Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister. "The main priority is the health of the consumer. The ban on importing British cattle, beef and other products will remain in force," he said.

The German farmers' association said it was "outraged" by the British decision. "We call on the government and all other member states to exclude Britain from the European beef market until it fulfils its commitments to the European Union."

Philippe Vasseur, the French Farm Minister, took a similar tone, saying: "The unilateral decision can only be met with perplexity by other European countries."

Ireland, which, as current EU president, speaks for the Council of Farm Ministers, noted that British behaviour would have no impact on Europe since the beef ban would simply stay in place. The British move was "a matter of indifference" to many member states, he said. "The biggest losers will be British — and in particular Northern Irish — farmers. The move will considerably widen the gulf of understanding about tackling the BSE problem." Mr Yates, who has been acting as a mediator between Britain and the Continent in the beef battle, has been telling Mr Hogg that many EU states would be only too happy for an excuse to let the ban continue indefinitely.

The Commission tried to keep doors open, noting that EU scientists were still reviewing the latest British data, produced by experts at Oxford University, and could recommend a rise or reduction in the slaughter, which was due to target 147,000 cattle. Sir Leon Brittan, the senior British commissioner, persuaded his colleagues on the Commission to have the latest science reviewed by the experts before dismissing Mr Major's latest approach to BSE.

The Commission remained open to discussing the possibility of easing the ban for animals from certified herds, possibly on a regional basis, "but only if the terms of the Florence agreement are respected," said Gerry Kiely, spokesman for Herr Fischler. This approach carried the potential for conflict between Northern Ireland and Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom. The Government indicated earlier this week that it was reversing its earlier refusal to seek a relaxation on a regional basis and could apply to the Commission for specified BSE-herds there to be exempted.

The latest conflict over Britain's handling of its BSE crisis has further soured the atmosphere ahead of an EU summit in Dublin on October 5. Some French commentators yesterday suggested Mr Major was deliberately seeking a new beef confrontation with Europe to distract attention from his likely isolation at the Dublin summit on the issue of European reform. The summis just before the Tory party conference.

John Major visiting a school club in Fenstanton, Cambridgeshire, yesterday

Suicide farmer hit by BSE losses

By A Staff Reporter

A FARMER whose cattle business was hit by the BSE alert killed himself on his way home from market. Brian Elgar, 56, bought 20 cattle a week from markets across the South of England for later resale.

As a result of the BSE crisis he had seen the price they would fetch drop from up to £700 each to less than £400, an inquest at Guildford, Surrey, was told yesterday. He was found, with a plastic bag over his head, in his car at Hydon Ball National Trust car park at Hascombe, near Godalming, Surrey, on August 7. Mr Elgar was last seen alive the previous afternoon leaving Ashford Cattle Market.

Mr Elgar's brother, Ronald, 55, told Michael Burgess, the Surrey Coroner, that they ran Barville Farm at Waldershare, near Dover, as a partnership. His brother was in charge of the cattle interests.

Ronald Elgar said that his brother was dedicated to attending cattle markets and regularly spent four or five days a week away from the farm doing business. He said: "It was a worry for us, we had lost a lot of money in the last few years. BSE was one problem but there was also the fact that he was addicted to buying cattle.

"He would buy irrespective of whether we could make any money or not. Since his death I have calculated our average loss on each cow over the last eight months and it has worked out at a £75 loss per head." He added: "My brother's sole interest in life was going to markets and buying and selling cattle."

In April another farmer, John Capp, 58, killed himself in Beckingham, Lincolnshire, after falling into a deep depression.

In May, Bill Rodney, 49, from Healey, Yorkshire, killed himself with a shotgun and last month Robert Cowburn, 40, from near St Austell, Cornwall, killed himself because he could not get a good price for his cattle.

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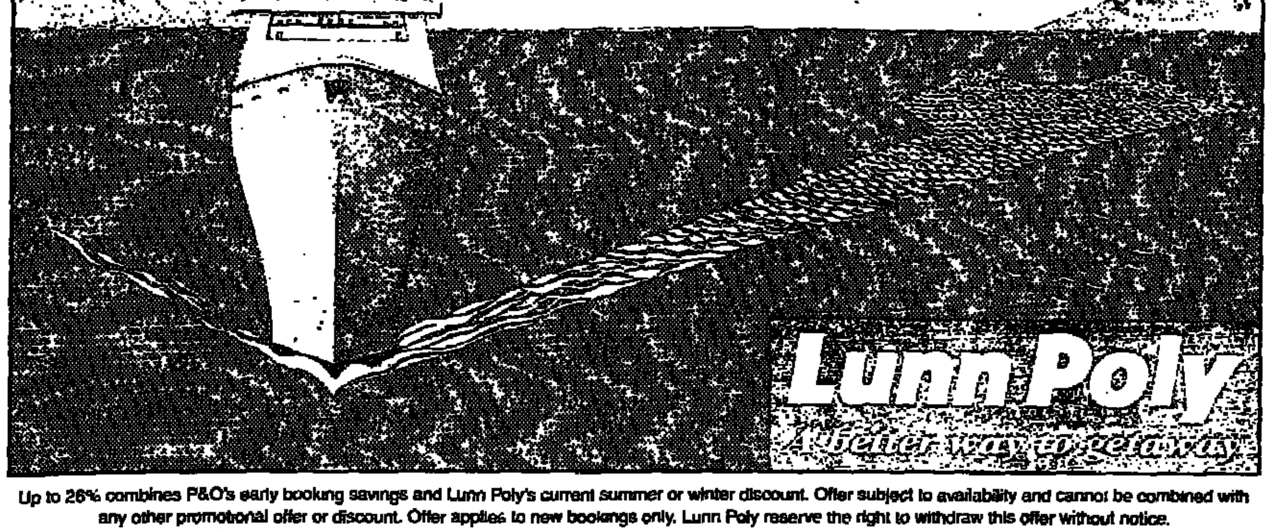
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Teacher training college criticised by inspectors

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

THE first college to be the subject of an inspectors' report since the Government launched its shake-up of teacher training came in for severe criticism yesterday, which could lead to the withdrawal of its accreditation.

Inspectors found courses in English and mathematics for primary school teachers to be unsatisfactory at La Sainte Union College in Southampton. Their report also criticised the standard of training in assessment and reporting, and found "serious weaknesses" in quality assurance.

The college threatened to sue *The Sunday Times* when the newspaper reported the findings of the first inspectors' visit almost a year ago. But the final verdict from the Office for Standards in Education was equally damning. Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said the report demonstrated many of the shortcomings which led to the Government's decision to introduce a national curriculum for teacher training. "The serious weaknesses, particularly in English and mathematics, at this college are the sort which undermine confidence in the training of new teachers."

Inspectors said students were not prepared sufficiently well to teach national curriculum English. "Although most students planned for the short term and managed classes successfully, they did not have a clear understanding of how to teach reading or writing." In mathematics, students were said to lack adequate knowledge for all age groups in primary schools.

Dr Arnand Chitnis, the Principal, said the inspection only covered courses followed by 200 of the 2,000 students. All the weaknesses in the report had now been addressed. Dr Chitnis said surveys of head teachers showed high levels of satisfaction with the college's graduates.

The report will trigger a second inspection next year. The college will join five others where the Teacher Training Agency will withdraw accreditation unless standards improve. The others are: Charlotte Mason College, in Ambleside, Cumbria; South Bank University, in London; West Hill College, in Birmingham; and Sussex University.

Mayor loses fight for privileges

THE Unionist Mayor of Londonderry lost a High Court action yesterday to regain the trappings of office. Richard Dallas was stripped of his privileges after taking part in the loyalist blockade of the Craigavon Bridge in the city at the time of the Drumcree standoff in July.

The nationalist-controlled Derry City Council took away his right to represent the city at civic functions and also stripped him of his official car and secretary. Mr Justice Kerr dismissed his application for judicial review yesterday in the High Court in Belfast. He said the council was entitled to regulate the civic duties to be performed by the Mayor.

Mr Dallas said he had been acting in a personal capacity as a member of the Orange Order I, and not as Mayor or councillor.

Prisoners to pay for board and lodgings

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

PRISONERS are to be made to pay towards their bed and breakfast under new plans intended to introduce more realistic wage schemes for inmates. The money will be deducted from convicts who are receiving increased wages for prison work.

Richard Tilt, director general of the prison service, said that scheme was intended to encourage prisoners to work harder and increase productivity. In return for the higher wages, which could be £50 a week compared to the usual £7, they would contribute towards the £425 a week it costs to hold a prisoner in jail. Inmates would also pay towards the upkeep of their families and pay cash to victim support and crime prevention schemes. The figure to be deducted for board and lodging has not been set yet, a Prison Service spokesman said.

A pilot scheme paying higher wages to 1,300 prisoners in 18 jails has been self financing, Mr Tilt told a conference at Salford University yesterday. Among the jails involved are Full Sutton, Whitemoor and Wakefield top security prisons, Albany on the Isle of Wight, Little Hey near Huntingdon, Ford open jail and Styal women's prison.

The scheme had proved that offering higher wages and more interesting work had encouraged prisoners to work harder, Mr Tilt said. Productivity had trebled in jails where the "enhanced wages" project was under way. "Hopefully, it will lead to a fundamental change in prisoners' work rate and their attitude to work in prison," he said.

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Father had spent hours on telephone preparing to set up home with his secret family

Mother of bishop's son still loves her 'decent man'

By Lin Jenkins

Mrs Whibley speaking on television yesterday

THE woman who kept a 15-year secret that a Roman Catholic bishop was the father of her son said yesterday that she still loved him. Joanne Whibley, 48, was in tears as she told how she had been expecting Roderick Wright, *the former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, to join her and* their son Kevin at their home in Polegate, East Sussex.

Until his resignation was announced by the Roman Catholic Church on Monday she had believed Mr Wright was abandoning the church for a family life with her at last. They had spent up to 45 minutes a day on the telephone planning how he was to say his goodbyes, break his ties and join them.

"He is an honest, decent, genuine man and I still love him," she said. "But he compartmentalises things in his head. One day he would be loving, caring, and the next day deny his son."

Speaking through a friend, Miss Whibley said she and Mr Wright had spoken on the telephone daily until the weekend, even during the time that he was said to be "missing" in Scotland. "He was still ringing up and spoke to me and Kevin. He told us he was going to put his affairs in order, going to resign and come down and live with us.

"He said to Kevin he was saying goodbye to everybody he needed to say goodbye to and would come down by today. Now Kevin has said he has had enough time and he is obviously not coming."

She said that the disgraced bishop never once mentioned a relationship with another woman. When press reports linked his name with Mrs MacPhee she thought it was "filth, a media lie", and possible a ploy by the press to flush her out. As she listened to the church statement about the resignation she had expected to hear her own name. When she did not she spent the night awake thinking before deciding to contact the BBC.

Mr Wright has not rung her since resigning. "I have not heard from him and I do not expect to. I just don't think he is going to. He could, if he wanted to, stay in a monastery for the rest of his life."

Miss Whibley, who does part-time social work and claims benefit, told her son when he was three who his father was. She never told even her closest friends, but Kevin increasingly told his schoolfriends, finding it hard to live with the secret and the feeling that he should not exist.

Miss Whibley feels that the Catholic church should devise some system to help the lovers and children of priests. Before the scandal broke she had discussed with Mr Wright the possibility of setting up a centre for children to meet estranged parents on mutual ground. Now she sees the need for a helpline dedicated to those in a similar position to herself. "The Catholic church should be pro-active and set up its own telephone line for women who have children by priests to telephone them and tell them their details and the church, I am sure, will want to take care."

Roderick Wright, the former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles: planned goodbyes

She added that behind the clinical debate about celibacy prompted by the bishop's resignation were the more profound and prosaic matters of people's lives. "To me it seems like it is all a bit academic as this is about human pain and suffering. That is what should be talked about," she said.

Miss Whibley has declined offers from newspapers to sell her story. Her letterbox is boarded up with cardboard and the doorbell goes unanswered. Her son is staying with friends but yesterday attended St Richard's Roman Catholic School Bexhill, where he is a prefect, as normal.

Tony Campbell, the headmaster, said: "The school and community are saddened by the news which was revealed yesterday with regard to the family circumstances of Kevin Whibley. Kevin is a popular, intelligent and most kind young man who contributes fully to the life of the school. During these distressing times Kevin and his mother can be assured, and have been assured, they will have the continued support of the school."

The Catholic Church yesterday offered support and guidance to Miss Whibley. Father Martin Thompson of Our Lady of Ransom, Eastbourne, said he had come to see her on the order of Bishop Cormack Murphy O'Connor, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, to offer support. He said: "Any parishioner who was in trouble, it would be my desire to go and help them and talk to them and offer them any comfort or assistance I could."

Pope stands firm, page 14

History proves ideal of celibacy is unachievable

By Ruth Gledhill and Richard Owen

THE Roderick Wright affair is the latest in a series of sex scandals that have rocked the Roman Catholic church. In Switzerland, a popular newly-elected Bishop, Hansjörg Vogel, resigned in June after making his girlfriend pregnant.

Bishop Vogel explained in a letter to his diocese that he had sought support from a woman to cope with the "greater mental stress" of being made a bishop. "This relationship led to a pregnancy," he wrote, concluding that "the credible exercise of my ministry was no longer possible".

In his letter he addressed the issue of priestly celibacy, arguing that "fresh doubt will arise as to whether priests can really maintain their decision to be celibate".

Four years ago the Bishop of Galway, Eamon Casey, disappeared when news broke that he had a teenage son. But the disclosures caused a scandal from which the church in Ireland has yet to recover.

Earlier this year, a Scots-born Catholic priest confessed to fathering a child while working as a missionary in Africa. Fr John McCaulay was sent to the Mill Hill Missionaries in Formby, Merseyside, for "counselling and spiritual help". In 1992, Monika Kocanek disclosed that her daughter was fathered by the Rev Christopher O'Neill, a Catholic priest of Bolton.

Numerous Popes have fathered children. In the fifth century, when the celibacy rule was still taking shape, Felix III had two children. In the sixth century St Hormisdas was married before ordination and his son Silverius also became Pope.

Even in the Middle Ages, when the celibacy rule was formally imposed, Popes had wives and children. Clement IV (1265-68) was married with two daughters, and Innocent VIII (1484-1492) had several illegitmate children, as did Pius II (1458-1464).

The most sexually active Pontiff was the Borgia Pope Alexander VI (1492-1503) who led what was described at the time as an "openly licentious life". He had four children by his aristocratic Roman mistress, Vannozza Catanei, as well as children by other women.

Subsequently Julius II had three daughters and Pius IV (1559-65) had three illegitimate children. Gregory XIII (1572-85) had "a natural son", whom he made Governor of the fortress of Castel Sant' Angelo next to the Vatican.

Widow tells of shame of affair with her priest

By Ruth Gledhill and Kathryn Knight

A MOTHER told last night how her relationship with a Roman Catholic priest resulted in two children. Adrianna Alsworth said that he would not leave the church for her and his family was "a source of shame".

Her two daughters, Catherine, 3, and Francesca, eight months, were born during a five-year affair she had with Fr Dermot O'Gorman, whom she met at St Augustine's church in Daventry, Northamptonshire. Mrs Alsworth became involved with Fr Dermot after her husband Stephen was killed in a car crash. She is still in regular contact with the priest.

"When I was expecting Catherine he was extremely concerned obviously because he wanted to continue in the ministry. He would have been very sad if he couldn't continue," Mrs Alsworth said.

Originally the couple decided to keep Catherine's identity a secret. "It was very secret, we felt that it was best that way. It *is something I still find very difficult today.*"

As with Kevin Whibley, the father's name was not registered on the birth certificate.

Ms Alsworth, still a practising Roman Catholic, said her lover left after Catherine's birth to work as a priest elsewhere.

"After the first year they [the parishioners] discovered he was the father of Catherine and it was very traumatic for him and for me that we had this little daughter," she said.

While her lover had enjoyed having a family, she said there had been no question of his leaving the ministry and marrying her. "He wanted to continue his ministry, he wanted to be a priest. I would be an embarrassment. It is appalling as I face up to the reality. Obviously I have to now, but it becomes harder and harder."

She said members of the parish clergy had been "very supportive" when they found out about her two daughters, but that other women may not have been so fortunate.

"I have heard of other cases and some of them are very tragic. Women have the burden of looking after the children."

Father O'Gorman: father of two

Hotline urged for lovers of clergy

By A Staff Reporter

JOANNE WHIBLEY called yesterday for the Roman Catholic Church to set up a telephone line to help women who have had children by priests.

Speaking to BBC television news, she said she was sure that the Church "will want to take care".

Miss Whibley originally approached the BBC to "unburden" herself after Roderick Wright apologised, when he resigned as a bishop, to his family and the family of Kathleen MacPhee, with whom he has been linked, but made no mention of her or their 15-year-old son, Kevin. She said that she had decided to make her story public in the hope that it might help other women.

When she had heard that Mr Wright had run off because of another woman she thought that the reports referred to her. She was shocked to discover that she was not the other woman, as Mr Wright had never mentioned anyone else to her.

He had telephoned Kevin and his mother two weeks ago, telling them that the pressure had become too much and that he was planning to resign and come and live with them.

Burdened teenager may suffer for sins of father

MEDICAL BRIEFING

KEVIN WHIBLEY, the son of Roderick Wright, is at a testing time in his life when he is going through the turmoil of adolescence without the support of his father. Research published last year confirmed the traditional teaching that children brought up in single-parent families are more likely to have problems which can, in some cases, lead to disaster in adult life.

Kevin Whibley has the additional burden of having a father who will now certainly have made him the subject of ribald and critical comment, remarks ranging from the tactless jokes to the deliberately offensive. Children like to be proud of their parents, but they like them to be low profile. Parents they find embarrassing enough even when they are perfectly standard, law-abiding citizens. To come to terms with having a father, however charming, who was a philandering Catholic bishop with a multiplicity of mistresses and who has failed to pay the maintenance expected by the State will be a particularly difficult burden.

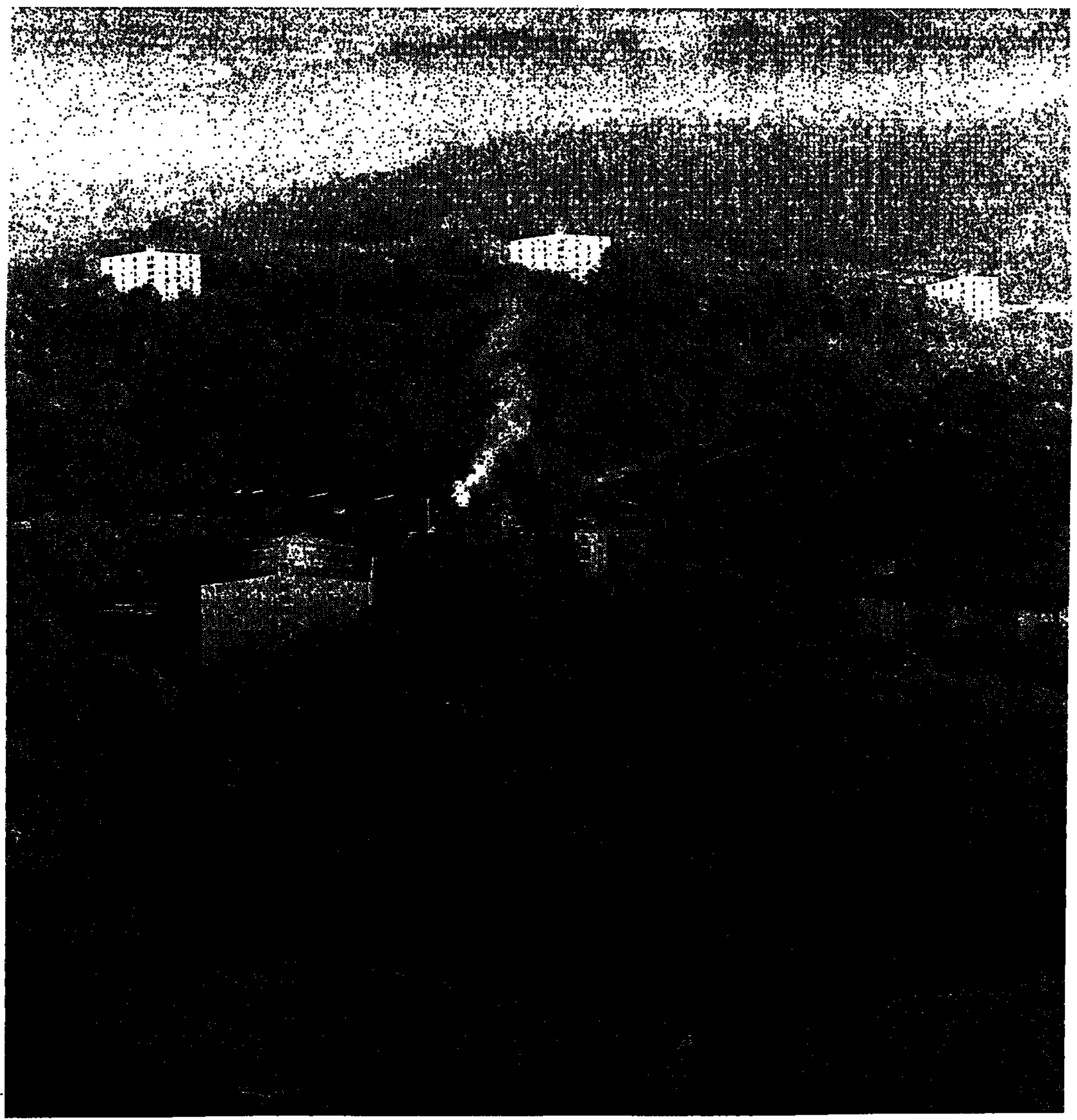
When a father has died,

be represented as an absent hero whose unseen presence is always felt. Mr Wright's behaviour will make it difficult for his friends, neighbours and family to fit him into this sometimes mythical image. Kevin looks the sort of boy who may have a character which will rise above these problems and he can be reassured that, statistically, he will indeed probably grow into a reasonably well balanced citizen. But statistics also show that he will have a greater chance than others of developing anti-social characteristics.

Without a suitable role model it will be harder for Kevin to establish good future relationships as a lover, husband and father.

Seldom discussed are the hazards of co-dependency which can develop when a single parent and child face the world together. Kevin has had to some extent to fulfil not only the role of the beloved son within the house, but also that of the absent husband. Many times I've heard a recently widowed parent say to a young child, "You are now the man (or woman) of the house." It is meant well but it deprives children of some of their youth so that in their childhood they have to behave in some ways like an adult; the pattern of normal development is skewed and sometimes altered beyond repair. When these children finally reach adult life they may have never completely matured and so may always be looking to repeat their childhood experiences, to the time when they were solely dependent on their single parent for their emotional support and their parent was entirely dependent on them.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford



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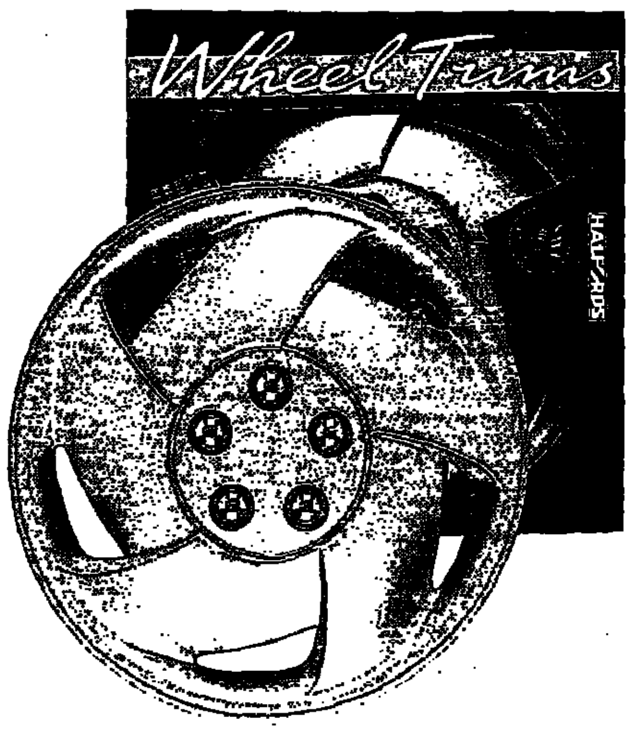

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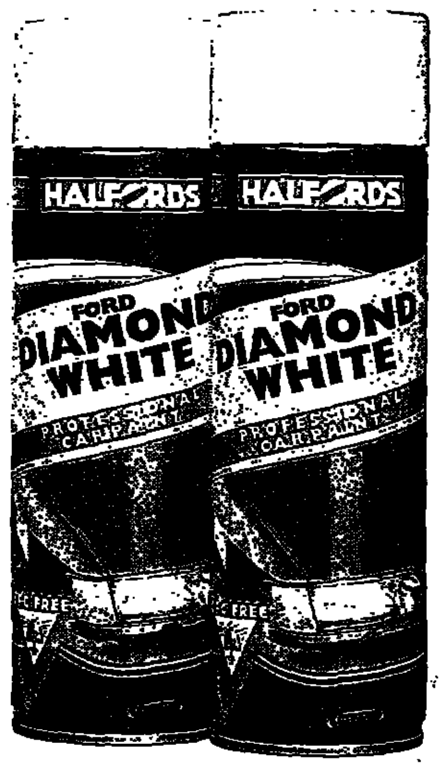

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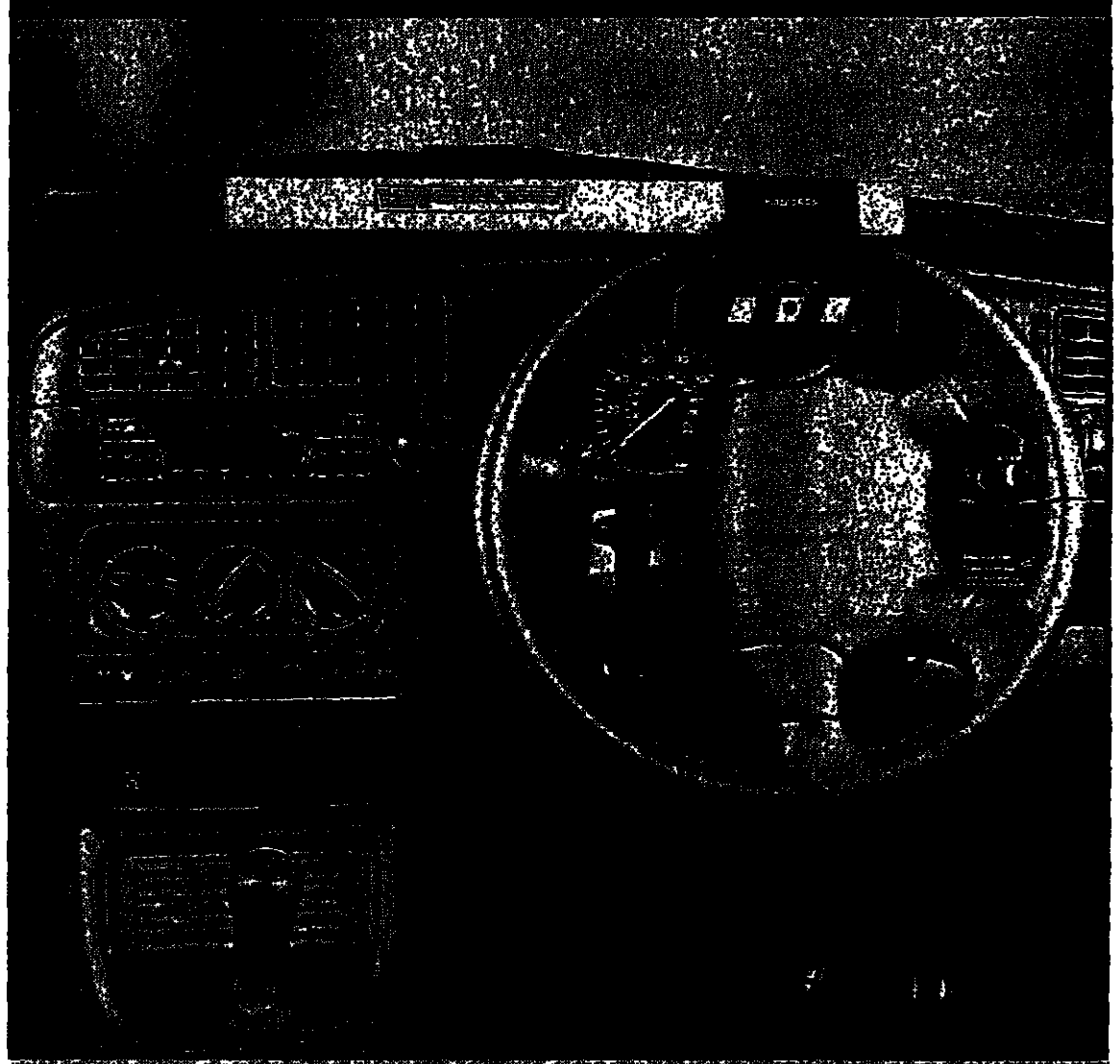

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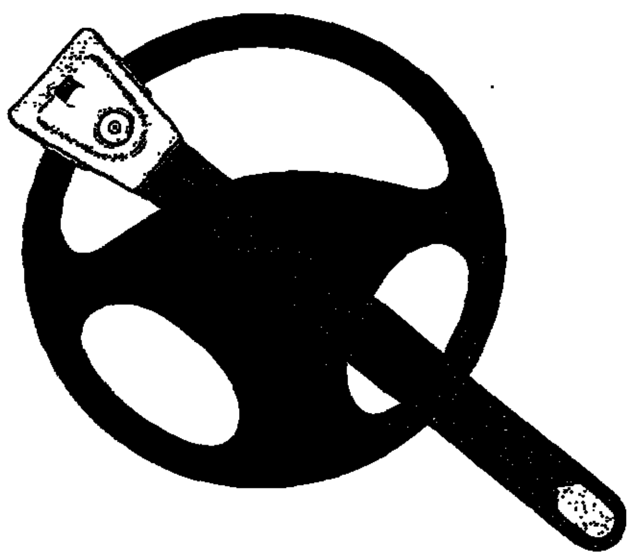

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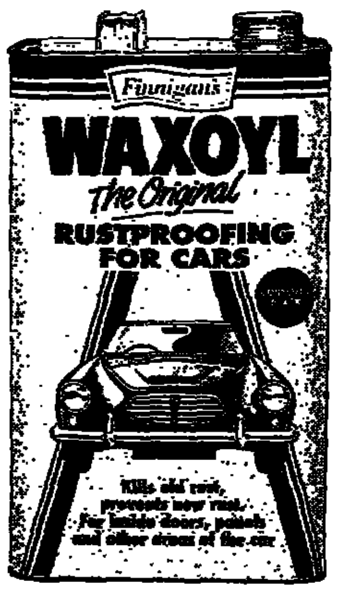

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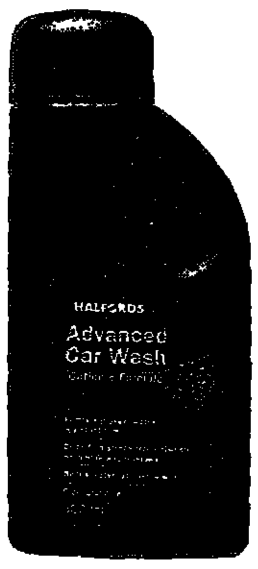

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Head teacher and deputy resign over death threats

By Ian Murray, Community Correspondent

THE head and deputy head of an inner-city school have resigned after being subjected to a campaign of abuse and lies from parents that culminated in death threats.

Elizabeth West, the head teacher, has asked for early retirement after 27 years in charge of Charlotte Sharman school at Southwark, south London. She told the governors that she was too frightened to go on. Her deputy, Pauline Milton, decided to leave with her at the end of this calendar year.

The threats were reported to police in July and the school took them so seriously that it hired a security guard at the start of this term. He stops anyone entering the gate in the high wall round the playground and escorts the two teachers to the station when they go home.

Gena Kent, whose son Laurie, 4, has jut started at the school, said: "One of the parents threatened to murder Mrs West because of a dispute over what her child did in school. That was when the police were called. There does seem to be some connection with children who have special needs that is causing problems."

Eileen Hariri, whose son Stefan, 5, is a pupil at the school, said: "One woman had an argument with Mrs West and went for her with a milk bottle. Another had an argument with Mrs West and said to her, 'I will be waiting for you outside'. They are the kind of women who don't like their children told off and Mrs West is strict."

Some parents of the 400 children at the infant and primary school have started a campaign to get the two teachers to change their mind. Children leaving the school yesterday queued to sign a petition asking the two teachers to stay. "If we was to loss [sic] Mrs West we would not just be lossing a fine headmistress, but part of the school," it said.

Most parents learnt of the trouble when they received a letter from Alf Bagnall, the chairman of the governors, inviting them to a meeting to discuss the resignations. It said: "These sad decisions are partly due to a small minority of parents who have carried out a continued unreasonable barrage of threats, abuse, intimidation, lies and slanderous allegations against Mrs West, preventing them [sic] from maintaining the pleasant ethos of the school."

Simon Hughes, the local Liberal Democrat MP, has started an inquiry to find out what lies behind the terror campaign. "The level of threats is clearly unacceptable and must be brought to an end," he said after meeting the governors yesterday. Mr Hughes said one reason a few parents were angry was the decision by the school to obtain grant-maintained status. Parents voted overwhelmingly in favour of this last year and the school will switch out of local authority control at the end of this month.

Southwark Council, which is responsible for the school until the end of the month, said it had not been told anything about the threats. "The first thing we knew was when we read about it in the local paper," Gordon Mott, the council's education and leisure director, said. "As far as we can discover there was only one occasion last March when there was a threat. This whole thing is a storm in a teacup. We cease to have any responsibility for the school in two weeks, but we will do all we can to help until then."

SIMON WALKER

A private security guard at the entrance to Charlotte Sharman junior school

BT blocks rival's computer phone list

By A Staff Reporter

THE planned launch of a German-made CD-Rom containing a "reverse search" version of all Britain's telephone directories was blocked by the High Court yesterday.

BT, which is claiming breach of copyright, was granted a temporary injunction banning the disc producers, Mannheim-based Topware CD-Service, from importing or marketing the disc.

The German product, containing 16 million directory entries and costing £19.95, enables users to find out people's names and addresses by keying in their telephone numbers. It is already on sale on the Internet. BT's own CD, priced at £199, does not allow such reverse searching because it is against the industry's code of conduct and is seen as an invasion of subscribers' privacy.

Graham Shipley, counsel for BT, told Mrs Justice Arden that BT undoubtedly had copyright in its directories and database, and there was strong evidence that they had been copied.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The Jeremy Thorpe story

Once, Jeremy Thorpe was the most popular politician in Britain and took the Liberals to the brink of power. But behind the glamour he was hiding a sordid secret. After years of silence, the whole story can now be told of his long, illicit love affair, his financial dealings and the Establishment's efforts to save him from his own flaws

News Review, The Sunday Times tomorrow

Jail for pair who abducted schoolboy

By Michael Horsnell

TWO youths who abducted a sixth-former from an affluent family and forced him to give them money were jailed at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Jay McConnell, 17, and Emmanuel Francis, 20, had made Thomas Birkert, 18, hand over cash after abducting him last November. The Recorder, Oliver Sells, QC, described McConnell's attitude towards his prisoner as "chilling". McConnell, who was under the influence of drugs during his victim's ordeal, was jailed for four and a half years, Francis for three years. Both were convicted in July of false imprisonment, robbery and blackmail.

During the four days Mr Birkert was held, McConnell was said to have relished his suffering and reduced him to a "zombie-like state". The pair made Mr Birkert buy them expensive clothes, cigarettes and bottles of champagne, and ordered him to drive them to Portsmouth so McConnell could see a girlfriend. Mr Birkert was intimidated with an air rifle and iron, and battered round the head repeatedly. He was rescued after he was made to call his mother to ask her to bring more money to meet the youths' further demands, and she alerted police.

The defendants had denied the charges, claiming that Mr Birkert, of Chelsea, had volunteered to go with them because he wanted to taste life on a different social level. During the trial, the defence claimed he had "played the rich boy, trying to buy friends" while rebelling against his background.

He has now passed three A levels but not at the grades he had hoped, and is due to start a university course next week.

McConnell, of Chelsea, and Francis, of no fixed address, both had previous convictions for dishonesty.

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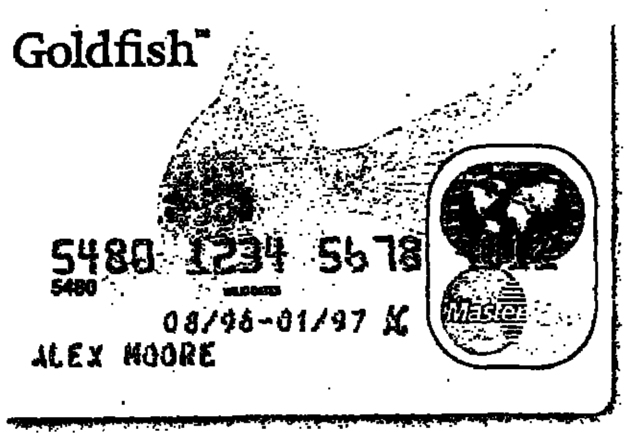

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MALCOLM CROFT

Acting head: *Ben Kingsley, who won an Oscar for his role as Gandhi, with students at a new school of performing arts named after him at Pendleton College in his home town of Salford, Greater Manchester. He opened the school yesterday and led a workshop. Arts, pages 19, 21*

Pilot describes horror as Tornados 'popped up' out of clouds

RAF jets almost struck airliner

By Harvey Elliott
AIR CORRESPONDENT

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched into how three RAF Tornado fighter bombers climbed at high speed across the nose of a commuter aircraft carrying 17 passengers and three crew.

The Gill Air Shorts 330 turbo-prop had flown about 14 miles from Newcastle on the 40-minute flight to Manchester and was cruising at 7,000ft at a speed of about 200mph. The cloud cover over the Durham moors was solid up to 5,000ft.

Also in the area were three Tornados from RAF Lossiemouth in northern Scotland, carrying out a low-level exercise. While the Gill Air pilot had his radio tuned to the civil frequency, the Tornados were talking on the military network. As the flying conditions at low level became intolerable, the leader of the Tornado group asked his controllers for permission to climb through the clouds into clear skies.

For the pilot of the Gill Air aircraft there was a moment of horror as the three jets "popped up" out of the clouds in front of him. He immediately filed a formal complaint.

Investigators from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the Ministry of Defence have impounded radar tapes and will be conducting detailed interviews to examine whether the military controller had spotted the Shorts 330 and believed that the manoeuvre was perfectly safe; whether the RAF pilots saw the civilian airliner on their own radars; or whether the jets had inadvertently climbed into danger.

The incident has highlighted the problem of integrating civil and military aircraft across Britain. The CAA is studying ways of making the two systems more compatible and reducing the number of "aircraft proximity" reports involving civil and military aircraft.

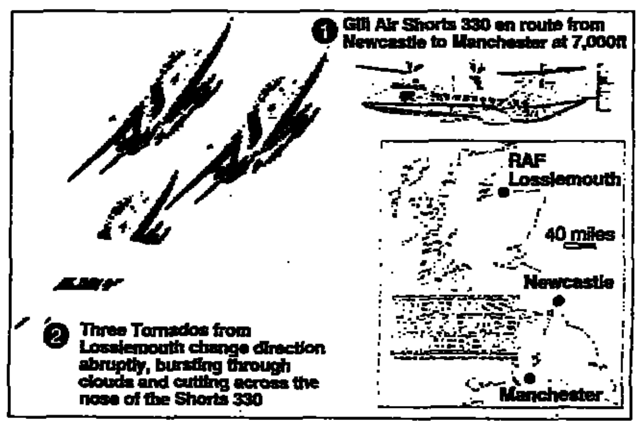
☐ Two fighter pilots escaped unhurt after their jets collided with "a glancing blow" in midair at a closing speed of about 900mph (Michael Evans writes). The pilot of a £17 million Royal Navy Sea Harrier and the Dutch pilot of an F16 succeeded in landing safely after the collision, although both aircraft were damaged.

Yesterday Commander Richard Hawkins from the Royal Naval Air Station at Yeovilton in Somerset, where the aircraft carried out an emergency landing, described the dramatic moment when the planes "brushed" in midair seven miles from Portland Bill during a training exercise. Commander Hawkins said: "It could have been a disaster but it was very well handled. We got a mayday call from both aircraft. The Sea Harrier pilot said it felt like an explosion."

He said that other aircraft in the area were able to carry out a visual inspection in the air. The Sea Harrier's nose cone was damaged and the F16 had minor tail damage.

A spokeswoman for the Ministry of Defence said a board of inquiry had been set up to investigate the incident.

☐ A pallet carrying 18 artillery shells crash-landed near a road on Salisbury Plain yesterday when a parachute failed to open. The 105mm shells were being dropped from a Hercules during an exercise codenamed Iron Cyclone. The shells did not go off but the road was closed while bomb disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion.


① Gill Air Shorts 330 en route from Newcastle to Manchester at 7,000ft
RAF Lossiemouth
40 miles
Newcastle
Manchester
② Three Tornados from Lossiemouth change direction abruptly, bursting through clouds and cutting across the nose of the Shorts 330

Council seeks gay foster parents

By Paul Wilkinson

A LABOUR council in south Yorkshire is advertising for gay and lesbian couples to be foster parents.

Rotherham social services says in a newspaper recruitment advertisement that it would "particularly welcome" applications from them as they were under-represented as carers. It is also seeking single people, those with disabilities and those from the ethnic minorities.

The policy on homosexuals was immediately attacked by Angela Knight, the Conservative MP whose Erewash constituency borders Rotherham. "The people that should be targeted are happily married couples. They are the group likely to give children a stable and secure upbringing."

David Nuttall, a prominent Rotherham Conservative and former councillor, said: "It's a 'loony left' idea. The ordinary person in the street grows up with Mummy and Daddy, not Mummy and Mummy or Daddy and Daddy."

But Rotherham, where all but one of the 66 councillors are Labour, stood by its policy, which it said was based on standards set by the Government for all local authorities.

A spokesman said: "The current campaign is designed to attract families to foster caring from all sectors of the community ... We would wish to stress that a great deal of care is taken in thoroughly assessing all applicants."

Pat Nolan, the head of Rotherham's social services, said: "We are not particularly targeting homosexuals. We are just saying that they won't be excluded if they apply ... It depends on the child. It is the Government which gives us guidelines for anti-discriminatory policies."

One social worker, who asked not to be identified, said: "Quite often these kids are coming from horrendous conditions within a heterosexual relationship. Sometimes the last person they want to see is a man."

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Macclesfield shocked by death of man who guided club through most successful era

Football chairman smoked last cigar then shot himself

By Kate Alderson

THE ambitious chairman of a leading semi-professional football club has killed himself after guiding the team through its most successful era.

Arthur Jones, 50, a businessman who had invested massive amounts of cash and energy into improving Macclesfield Town Football Club's chances of attaining league status, was found lying next to a shotgun on Thursday morning. He is believed to have gone to his business offices in Macclesfield, Cheshire, where he smoked a last cigar before turning the gun on himself.

Mr Jones, who leaves a wife, Wendy, and a stepdaughter, Lynette, joined the club as a director in 1991 and became chairman three years ago. In May 1995 the team, nicknamed the Silkmen, became champions of the Vauxhall Conference, which qualified them to enter the Football League, but they were denied promotion because of problems with their ground, Moss Rose. There was some controversy as the ground had previously been used for League matches by Chester City while its new stadium was being built. It was described in *The Non-League Football Grounds of Great Britain* as "up to Football League standard".

However, Mr Jones, the managing director of Crosland Metals (International), tasted success with the club this year when Macclesfield won the FA Umbro Trophy at Wembley.

The chairman's death has shocked and bewildered his colleagues. Alan Cash, a fellow director at the club, spoke to Mr Jones 24 hours before his death. "He seemed fine and nothing seemed to be troubling him," he said. "He was a perfect gentleman but he kept a lot to himself, which may have been a problem. Everyone was bitter at the failure to get into the league, especially Arthur, because he invested so much into the club with that aim. Now we could achieve this great ambition and sadly Arthur won't be there. He was the heart and soul of the Town."

Nicholas Winterton, Conservative MP for Macclesfield and a friend of Mr Jones for many years, described the chairman's death as a tragedy for his family, friends and the club. "It is such a pity that whatever was worrying him he couldn't share it with his friends," he said.

"He was the dynamo behind the club and was so ambitious for it. We may learn eventually why he took this desperate step, but he loved the club, as does his wife Wendy, and we share the family's grief.

"If there were problems through his commitment to the club, I only wish that he could have shared them and been helped by his many friends. He had driven and carried the burden of the club himself and poured cash, time and energy into the place."

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS

Arthur Jones at the Moss Rose ground of the team he helped to take to the brink of league membership

Colin Garlick, the club's secretary, said that Mr Jones was widely respected in the football world. "The club has had three fantastic years since he was chairman and the team's manager [Sammy McIlroy, the former Manchester United player] is totally distressed."

Cheshire Police confirmed that a shotgun had been found at the scene and said that there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding Mr Jones's death.

A statement released by the Vauxhall Conference said that Mr Jones "guided the Moss Rose club through its most successful era". It added that he oversaw the upgrading of the club's facilities and that the "Arthur Jones era earned Macclesfield Town the status as the most-honoured team", measured in national trophies, outside the Football League, since the 1992-93 season. A coroner will investigate the circumstances surrounding Mr Jones's death and supporters will pay a silent tribute to their chairman at the club's home game against Bath today.

Football, pages 46, 47

Jesus tomb authors threaten to sue BBC

By Carol Midgley

TWO authors who claim to have located the tomb of Jesus are threatening to sue the BBC for its "demolition job" on their theory.

Richard Andrews and Paul Schellenberger claim that they were unfairly treated in last week's *Timewatch* documentary which contradicted their "proof" that the grave is hidden beneath a mound of rock in the Languedoc, southwest France. The authors, who were paid a £300,000 advance for their book, *The Tomb of God*, said they were misled about the content of the programme and denied an opportunity to preview it as agreed.

The BBC2 programme, *The History of the Mystery*, shown on Tuesday, said that parchments used by the men to prove their theory were false. Mr Andrews, 43, a self-employed furniture restorer, of Witney, Oxfordshire, said he and his co-author had carried out exhaustive research for their book using archives in Paris and Oxford. "It was a thorough demolition job on us. The film did not treat us in a fair manner."

The programme was made for the BBC by an independent company, In Visions Production. A BBC spokeswoman, who denied breach of contract, said that the programme had been a demolition of the book and other myths on the same subject.

'Unknown' rock filed under P for problem

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

EXPERTS at the Natural History Museum baffled by a mysterious blue rock have discovered that the mineral is to be found throughout the Moroccan Rif Mountains — and in the basement of their own museum, in a drawer marked "P" for problems.

The rock was taken to the museum in Kensington by Anna Grayson, a broadcaster, who bought it from a roadside stall in Morocco. The resident geologists were stumped, but it has now been identified as aerinite by Dr Mohammed Bensaid, of the Moroccan Ministry of Mines. He said that the mineral was found in several places in the Rif Mountains. It is also found in the Natural History Museum, though none of the curators could lay hands on it when they needed to.

The embarrassing discovery was made when a researcher from BBC Television's *Horizon* was working with Ms Grayson on a programme about the mineral. It has left the museum almost as red-faced as the mineral is blue.

A spokeswoman said that the museum had 350,000 minerals in its collections, plus another 300 of questionable status. The four aerinite specimens came originally from Spain, France and Morocco, the first two before 1911. "Nobody working at the museum now had ever actually seen them," she said. "They weren't on the database, so when we searched it they weren't found."

Aerinite, which contains calcium, aluminium, iron, silicon, magnesium and oxygen, is certainly no common rock. The blue colour — the most intense of any mineral — is believed to be caused by the presence of two different forms of iron, between which electrons are constantly moving.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman in drug case remanded

A woman questioned by police over the death of Richard Mulkerrins, 17, a school head boy, was remanded in custody yesterday after being charged with supplying amphetamine sulphate. Jane Poyner, 39, of Stonehouse, Plymouth — who is also known as Preece — was alleged to have supplied the Class B drug to a youth in Plymouth between September 12 and 14.

Earl harassed

A South African photographer was given a suspended jail sentence by a Cape Town court for breaching an order not to harass Earl Spencer, brother of Diana, Princess of Wales, and his family.

Mine rejected

Powys County Council rejected an application by Celtic Energy to develop a huge opencast coal mine at Ystradgynlais, north of Swansea, on the fringe of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Greens to stand

The Green Party voted to field candidates in the general election, despite nearly 200 lost deposits last time. It defeated a call to focus on local and European elections. Up to 80 members may stand.

Man cleared

Lee Ellison, 21, of Witham, Essex, was cleared at the Old Bailey of taking part in an alleged £100,000 plot to blackmail Sainsbury's. It had been claimed that he was to act as a courier to collect the money.

Road works

Roy Smith, 49, a redundant sales director from Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, who stood beside the A466 with a poster saying "I need a job", has been hired as an international sales manager.

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See Weekend - Travel - Page 22

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Canada geese face heavy cull with paraffin spray

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A FRESH blitz on the Canada goose is expected to be launched in public parks and gardens after the publication of research showing that numbers can be effectively controlled by spraying paraffin on to their eggs.

Studies carried out by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust on behalf of the Department of the Environment show that the liquid paraffin suffocates goose embryos. The method is cheap and less controversial than shooting the geese.

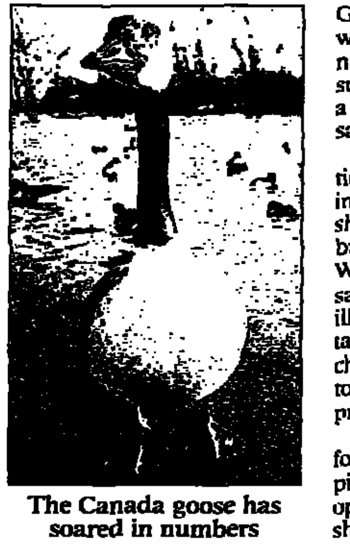
A spokesman for the trust, based in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, said yesterday that the method was "usually 100 per cent effective". The findings, to be published in October, are to form new guidance from the department for councils and landowners.

The pressure for greater culling is expected to be increased by further research, also funded by the Environment Department and to be published next month, showing that the birds' droppings contain pathogens that could pose a public health risk.

Many wildlfowl carry pathogens in droppings but, for most species, there is little chance of these coming into contact with human beings. However, this is not the case with Canada geese, which graze on playing fields and parkland. "It is the quantity of droppings which these birds produce and their proximity to young children that is emerging as a key issue for controlling numbers," a spokesman for the department said.

The birds' prodigious defecation and tendency to go around in packs terrorising young children have earned them a reviled reputation. They were introduced into Britain by Charles II in the 17th century. Since then, rather like other imports such as the rabbit and the grey squirrel, they have taken to Britain and its climate.

Their numbers soared in the 1950s when shooters seized on the geese as a popular new game bird and began moving adults around the country. The present population is estimated at around 60,000. In some cities, parks and gardens have become overwhelmed by the geese.


The Canada goose has soared in numbers

But the difficulties and costs of controlling the birds, allied to doubts over the damage they cause to the environment, have made many landowners and local authorities reluctant to take culls seriously.

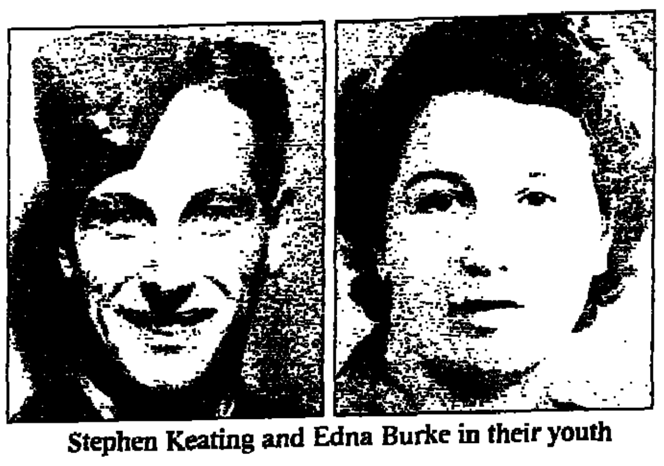
Chris Harbard, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and a member of the Canada Goose Working Group, said yesterday that he would back the control of numbers using spraying. "We support such actions if there is a threat to public health or air safety," he said.

There have been suggestions that, as has been the case in America, Canada geese should be shot and sold to butchers as a delicacy. But the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust said: "At the moment it is illegal to sell them for the table. You would have to change the legislation for this to take place and there are problems.

"You might open the way for the sale of other kinds, like pink-footed geese. This might open the floodgates for illegal shooting."

CATERS NEWS AGENCY

Together at last: the couple plan to settle in Canada after marrying today


Stephen Keating and Edna Burke in their youth

Pair to wed after 54 years apart

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A COUPLE who were separated by the Second World War will finally marry today, after first meeting on a blind date in 1936.

Edna Burke and Stephen Keating grew up in Dalkey, Co Dublin, and met when they were both 15. They fell in love and courted for two years before Mr Keating joined the RAF in 1938. She moved to Liverpool to work as a housekeeper after he was posted to Canada. They last saw each other in 1942.

Mr Keating, 75, said: "She says she kept writing, but I'm not so sure. I didn't realise letters were going astray and thought she'd found another love who wooed her with red roses instead of dandelions. My pride wouldn't let me contact her if she didn't want me."

Mrs Burke says that she kept writing, but eventually gave up after receiving no replies. She met and married Jim Burke and eventually moved to Coventry, where they had four children. He died seven years ago.

After the war ended Mr Keating settled in Canada, working as a firefighter in Coburg, Ontario. He married and had four children.

It was only on a visit to her home town in Ireland in 1994 that Mrs Burke contacted Mr Keating's brother. He passed on his brother's telephone number and address and said that he was now a widower.

"I tried so many times to write, but just couldn't," she said. "Then after a month I finally picked up the phone." Mr Keating said: "This woman came on the line and asked me to guess who it was after 54 years. Strangely enough, I had a good idea. We just sort of came full circle. All the years just rolled back for both of us."

Mrs Burke flew out to visit him in May this year and they resumed their romance. After the wedding today in Coundon, Coventry, the couple will live in Coburg.

War widow reunited with husband's wedding ring

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE widow of an American serviceman who was killed in an air crash over Belfast during the Second World War is to be reunited with her husband's wedding ring more than 50 years after his death.

Ruth Gillespie will receive the ring at a ceremony tomorrow from the man who found it nearly three years ago on a hillside outside Belfast where her husband's B17 Flying Fortress bomber crashed in 1944. Alfred Montgomery, from Glengormley, Belfast, flies out today to Mrs Gillespie's hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, for the ceremony in her local Baptist church.

Mr Montgomery's search for the ring's origins began when he recovered it from the crash site on Cavehill mountain on a cold day in December 1993. At first he thought he had picked up a washer from the site of the crash, which he had searched regularly for souvenirs since he was a child. But, after careful cleaning, Mr Montgomery soon realised what it was.

He told a local newspaper: "We got a magnifying glass and discovered an inscription with the names Ruth-Larry and a wedding date." Armed with this piece of information, Mr Montgomery secured the names of the ten airmen who died when the plane crashed towards the end of a flight from Newfoundland to Northern Ireland.

Two had the christian name Lawrence, but Mr Montgomery contacted the American cemetery in Cambridge, where officials eliminated one of the names and told him to contact Ruth Dundon, who had lost her husband, Staff Sergeant Lawrence Dundon, in the crash.

Numerous letters to veterans' groups, to pension administrators and to the American Air Force all proved fruitless. Mr Montgomery even wrote to the airman's last address in Louisville, but all to no avail. "At this stage I was running round in circles," he said.

In a last attempt to track down the airman's widow, he wrote to a Louisville newspaper, the *Courier Journal*, which ran a story about the ring in July. Within weeks Mrs Gillespie, who remarried in 1946 and whose second husband died last year, telephoned him.

Mr Montgomery said: "She was surprised that the ring had turned up. When I explained that the crash site was close to civilisation she was really astonished. She was very, very grateful indeed that somebody should go to the trouble of researching and finding her. It was just gratitude from one end of the conversation to the other."

Bader 'may have been shot down by own side'

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SIR DOUGLAS BADER, the Second World War flying ace who was captured after being shot down over France, may have been the victim of friendly fire, according to a new book about him.

Sir Douglas, who died in 1982, was shot down in his Spitfire over St Omer in August 1941. It has always been assumed that his plane was hit either by German anti-aircraft fire or by the Luftwaffe in a dogfight. Sir Douglas once suggested that he may have collided with a Messerschmitt 109.

Now, in a book about the Battle of Britain pilot, Dilip Sarkar claims that one of his own men may have shot him down by mistake. Mr Sarkar said that the collision theory was inconclusive and there was no proof that he was shot down by a German.

"In the confusing mass of duelling fighters it's not impossible that Bader was shot down by another Spitfire," he said. "He would have represented a flash across the windscreen at 350mph. Things weren't helped by the fact that the Messerschmitt 109F was new and didn't look that different to a Spitfire."

Lady Bader, Sir Douglas's widow, who lives near Newbury, said: "He assumed it was the enemy, but he never really talked about it. He didn't like remembering being shot down."

☐ *Bader's Tangmere Spitfires: The Untold Story, 1941,* (Haynes, £17.99) is published next month.

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J. Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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Vicar calls for Pope to lead Church of England

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

AN ANGLICAN vicar who is about to be consecrated a bishop called yesterday for the Pope to be given primacy over the Archbishop of Canterbury and the monarch.

The Rev John Broadhurst, an opponent of women priests who heads the traditionalist group Forward in Faith, called on the Church of England to abandon its autonomy and to seek to rejoin the Roman Catholic Church, acknowledging the Pope as its "first bishop".

He also challenged the establishment of the Church of England and criticised the constitutional role of the monarch as supreme governor. "The Church has to return to the mainstream or it will perish," he said. "The only possible future for the Church of England is a Catholic one, with the Pope as the first bishop."

Father Broadhurst has growing influence in a Church where large numbers remain disillusioned over what they see as a steady progress towards liberalism. On Wednesday he will be consecrated Bishop of Fulham. His promotion, by the Right Rev Richard Chartres, the new Bishop of London, who has never ordained a woman, has been seen by many as a strong endorsement from the hierarchy for Father Broadhurst's views. The Church's main proponent of disestablishment, the Right Rev Colin Buchanan, a vicar in the Rochester diocese, has also been promoted to an area bishop in Southwark.

Many traditionalists left the Church over the issue of women's ordination, but some, such as Father Broadhurst, remained in the hope that they could influence a return to what they regard as orthodox Christianity. He and other clergy, including the Ven George Austin, Archdeacon of York, voice their fears for the future of the Church in a collection of essays, *Quo Vaditis*, published yesterday (Gracewing, £9.99).

Father Broadhurst describes establishment as "a Babylonian captivity of enormous proportions". He says the Anglican Church this century has suffered a significant decline, with falling numbers, increased secularisation and liberal theology.

"The establishment of the Church, which once held it close to the old universal tradition, has now become an instrument of oppression seeking to enforce the views of an increasingly secular world upon the believers," he says. "The Church defends every view except traditional Christianity." He calls for all "orthodox" Christians in the Church to "exert sustained pressure for a return to traditional faith and order".

Referring to the Pope, he calls for the issue of primacy to be recognised. Many Anglicans already believe the Pope to be the "first bishop of Christendom", he says. And some other Christians, while rejecting the concept of bishops, "recognise that the Pope consistently speaks for Christian values in an increasingly secular world".

At Your Service, Weekend, page 15

Father Broadhurst: to be consecrated a bishop

ANDRE CAMARA

Jack Shabosnick in the Great Garden Street synagogue where his father's collection of books is rotting away

Synagogue sale threatens East End rabbi's historic book collection

By Ian Murray
Community Correspondent

Louis Shabosnick, left, and Joseph Shabosnick

A UNIQUE collection of books by a rabbi who prescribed herbal remedies for George V and exchanged letters with the Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Sigmund Freud is rotting in the attic of a synagogue about to be sold to make way for a block of offices.

The Great Garden Street synagogue, just off Whitechapel, once boasted the largest congregation in the East End of London. When it opened 100 years ago, more than 1,000 people regularly attended services on the Sabbath and its rabbi was regarded as one of the leaders of British Jewry.

However, fewer than 50 are likely to be in the congregation for the Yom Kippur service on Monday, even though this is the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. Most of the Whitechapel Jewish community has migrated to the northern and eastern fringes of London, leaving only a small group of mostly elderly people.

Jack Shabosnick, 64, whose father, Louis, was rabbi at the synagogue for 43 years, is trying to find a home for its handwritten goatskin Torah scrolls, embroidered curtains and collection of religious books written and published by his grandfather, Joseph.

"My grandfather was a doctor, rabbi, herbalist and psychologist who never stopped writing," Mr Shabosnick said. "He was known as the 'wonder rabbi' because of the way he treated and cured people."

In the family scrapbook is a letter from Lord Dawson of Penn, physician to George V, thanking the rabbi for a herbal remedy sent to the King in 1932. Other letters from the private secretaries of the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury attest to an attempt by the rabbi to form a parliament of all world religions to work for peace. "He was a loner who was full of ideas and was never afraid of confronting the authorities if he believed in something," Mr Shabosnick said. "He never stopped working, which is probably why he died when he was only 56."

A London evening paper described a day with the rabbi. "When he walks the densely packed streets of the East End, the jostling crowds cleared a path for him as if by magic." When he died the streets were packed with mourners.

Hundreds of copies of the 45 commentaries he wrote on the Talmud — Jewish civil and religious law — are now gathering dust in the synagogue attic. Sharmar Kadish, a professor of Jewish history at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, had inspected the collection recently and was shocked at its condition. "If they cannot be placed somewhere, then they will have to be buried, according to Jewish custom," Mr Shabosnick said. Most of the treasures will go to other Jewish centres.

Credo

Relics remind us of the power of God's love

The desire to possess tangible links with those who are powerful and charismatic is deeply embedded in human nature. The sale in America a few months ago of mementoes of the late Jacqueline Onassis was but one of the most recent examples.

Religion shares in this very human desire. Relics, whether the bones of saints, their rosaries, prayer books or clothing, are powerful symbols linking the contemporary worshipper with one whose life was marked by a holiness and transparency to God. When a monk of Winchester became the first Bishop of Stavanger in Norway, he took with him an arm of the saintly Bishop Swithun to give him encouragement and protection — and, as a consequence, a cult of Swithun flourished in Norway. Possession of the relics of a saint could provoke both theft and war, as well as the wholesale manufacture of spurious relics, such as the great collection housed in Wittenberg by the Elector of Saxony on the eve of the Reformation.

Dr Geoffrey Rowell

Relics implied spiritual power, and it is no surprise that the attack on papal power in the 16th century coincided with a destruction of relics and shrines of saints. It may have been an understandable attack on what was perceived as a superstitious prop to ecclesiastical power, but it was blind in failing to see the link between relics in the widest sense and the essential incarnational, embodied, character of the Christian faith, whose treasure is always in earthen vessels.

Of Christian relics none was more powerful than those held to be of the Cross of Christ. So, in 618, when the Persian King Chosroes II seized the relic of the True Cross from Jerusalem and carried it off to Mesopotamia, a shudder ran through Eastern Christendom. The spiritual devastation was reversed a little over ten years later, when the Emperor Heraclius led an army against the forces of Chosroes and returned the relic of the Cross in triumph to Jerusalem — the first and last time that an Eastern Roman Christian Emperor set foot in the holy places.

A week ago Christians celebrated the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, or Holy Cross Day, a feast which began in commemoration of Heraclius's triumphant restoration of the cross to Jerusalem, yet there can be few who celebrate it who know of its origin. For, rightly, what this day has come to commemorate is not the rescue of a relic, nor the darkness, grief and sorrow of Good Friday, but the Cross as the sign of the victory of the love of God, the triumphant sacrifice of Christ. It is a love that goes to the uttermost, a light which shines in the darkest places of death, destruction and despair. The Gospels record the great cry of Jesus as he died: "It is accomplished", for "Love's redeeming work is done, fought the fight, the battle won."

It is that triumph of the love of God over evil, sin and death that is at the heart of Holy Cross Day: and the Cross seen in the light of Easter proclaims, in the words of Lady Julian of Norwich, that "the love of God has come down to the lowest part of our need", a love that will never let us down, and will never let us go.

☐ *Dr Geoffrey Rowell is Bishop of Basingstoke.*

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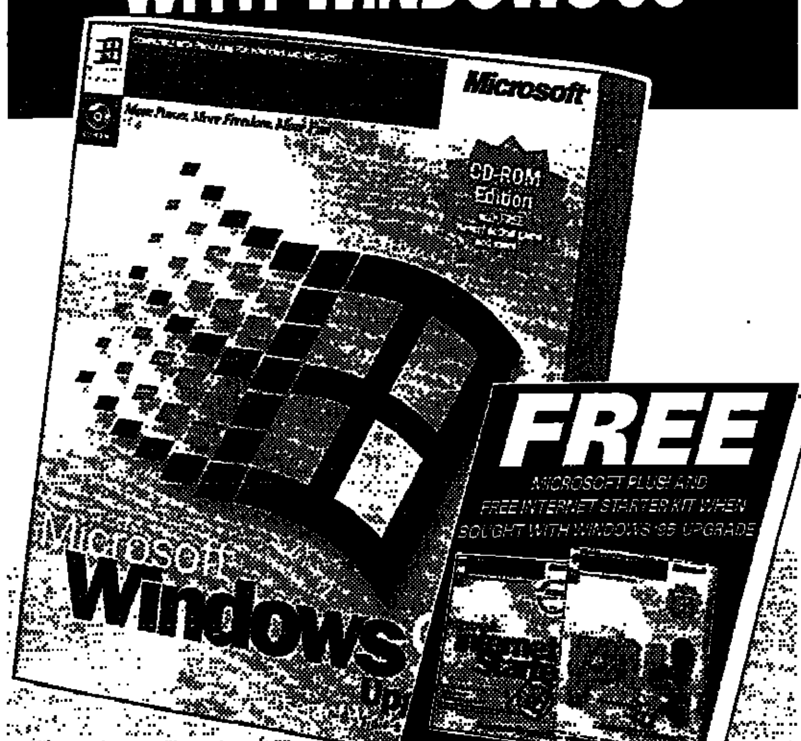
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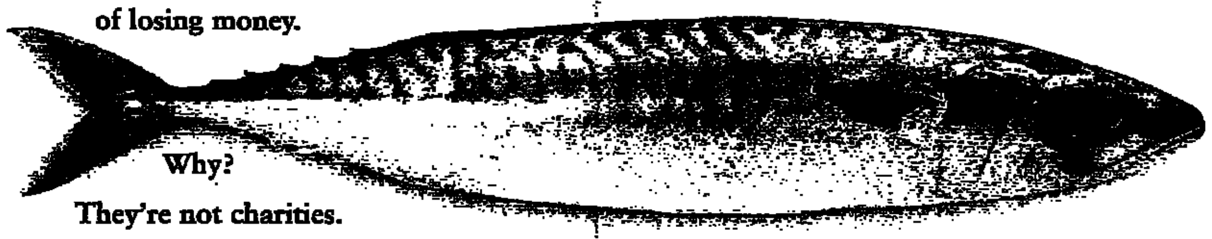
There's a great deal going on

Are you a mackerel?

Are you tempted by one of these cheap mortgages currently being offered by the banks and building societies?

If so, you could be about to swallow a baited hook.

They are falling over themselves to offer cheaper and cheaper mortgages – almost, it would seem, to the point of losing money.



Why?

They're not charities.

There must be a logical explanation.

Of course there is.

Banks and building societies can afford to do this.

They are planning to make a lot more money from selling you the life insurance that goes with it.

The mortgage is a sprat. You are the mackerel.

But you don't have to swallow it. In fact, you can take the bait and then escape the hook.

Banks and building societies shouldn't force you to buy *their* insurance policy.

You are absolutely free to buy insurance from whichever company gives you the best price.

Very few people know this. Which is unfortunate, because insurance from banks and building societies can be amongst the most expensive you will find.

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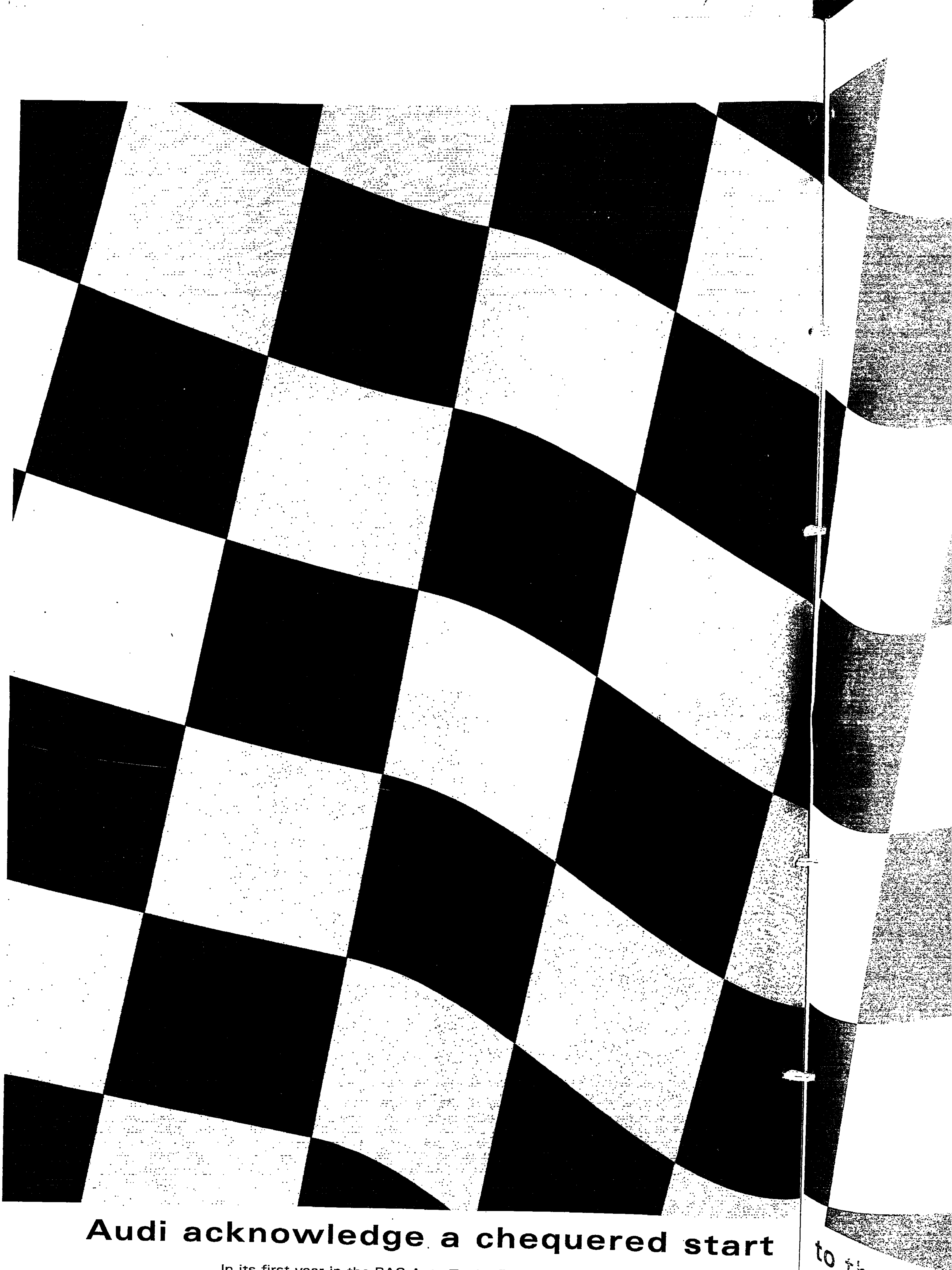

Audi acknowledge a chequered start

In its first year in the RAC Auto Trader British Touring Car Championships, the

to the A4

Audi A4

upwards. Ever upwards.

Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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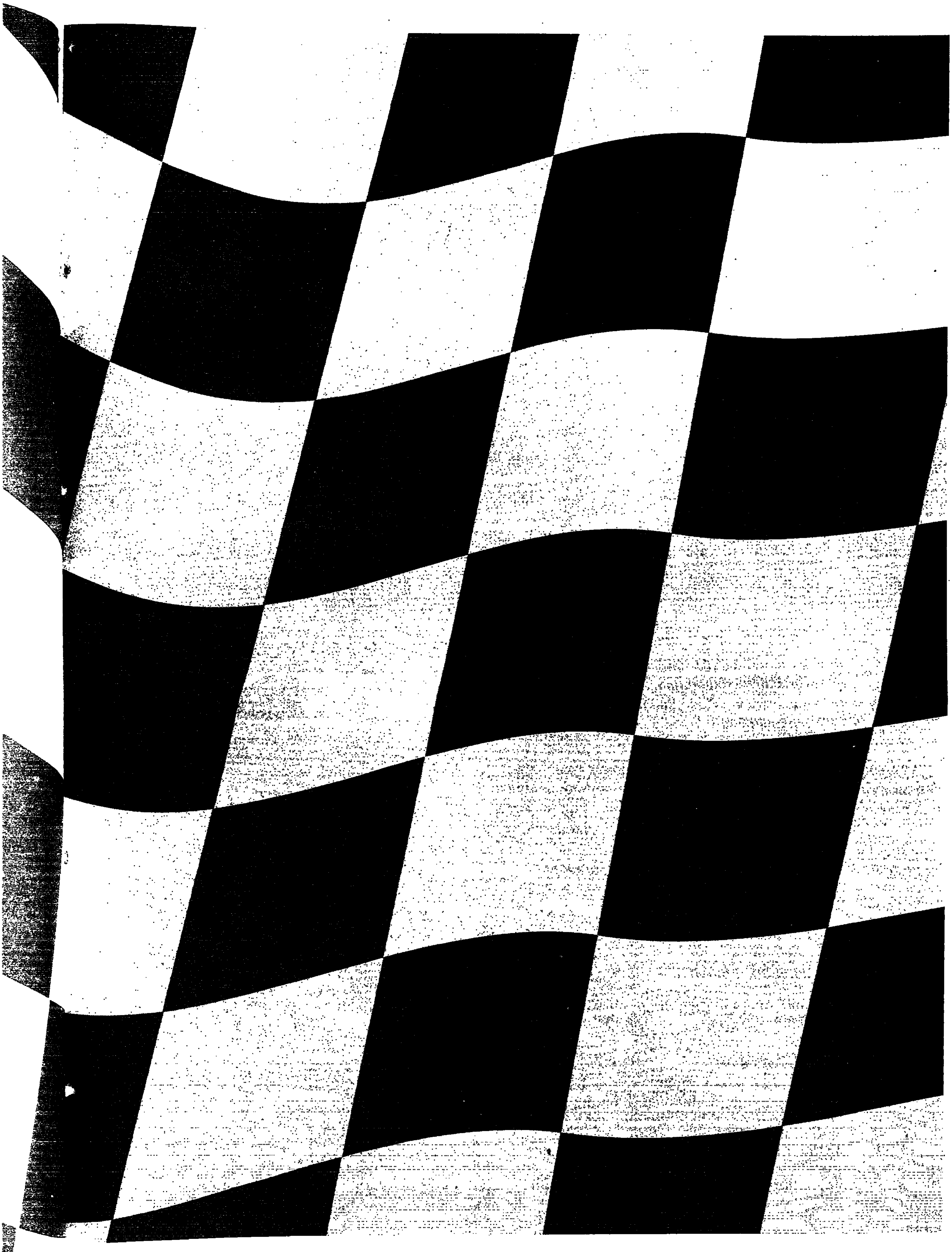

to the A4 touring car campaign.

Audi A4 quattro won the Driver, Team and Manufacturer trophies.

Audi
Vorsprung durch Technik

Pressure builds on 'pariah' Britain for currency deal

From Charles Bremner in Dublin

BRITAIN will come under renewed pressure from its partners today to join a system designed to ensure stability between the planned European single currency and countries outside it.

The threat of disruption between the future "inner" zone of economic and monetary union and countries outside it will be at the heart of talks in Dublin where finance ministers are to put the finishing touches to the machinery for launching the euro, as the new currency is to be called. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will repeat Britain's lack of interest in joining a new-look monetary system, supported by all the other EU states, which will seek to tie the so-called "out" currencies to the euro.

Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the Monetary Commissioner, acknowledged yesterday that membership of "ERM [exchange-rate mechanism] II" could not be made compulsory, but he recalled that the EU's founding treaty made exchange rates a "matter of common interest". This clause is being brandished by officials around the Continent as a vague threat to Britain should it seek to achieve advantage against the euro through what is called "competitive devaluation". M de Silguy, who is ever more optimistic that EMU will go ahead on time in 1999, said the aim of "ERM II" was "to avoid cutting Europe in two. What we have to do is maintain the security of the single market."

The risk that EMU will indeed divide Europe has become a central theme of British concern with the approach of the entry deadline — early 1998. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, sounded a warning over a possible schism that could be triggered by an ill-advised leap to monetary union. Britain had hoped to win the support of Italy, Spain and other states likely to be excluded from the first wave of EMU. However, the Government has so antagonised the continental states that it stands isolated.

"Until the next election, I'm afraid London has made itself a bit of a pariah," a senior Belgian official said. Fear of failing to make the EMU grade is, however, stirring growing tension between the rich north European members and the more fiscally profligate southern states. But Britain's qualms will have little effect on the Dublin talks, where most of the remaining nuts and bolts of the EMU machine are to be forged.

"The EMU car will be finished by the end of this year in time for the member states to get into the driver's seat a year later," M de Silguy said.

While poor economic performers such as Italy and Spain are becoming worried about their possible exclusion, the passage of Germany's austerity budget and the unveiling of France's own version has created a surge of optimism among the likely founding holders of the euro. Austerity budgets are expected to bring the two key economies through the EMU entrance test.

The French budget hinges on book-keeping sleight-of-hand in which a heavy injection of assets from France Telecom, the state telecommunications company, has been assigned to soak up the deficit and bring it under the Maastricht ceiling of 3 per cent. The Commission signalled yesterday that this controversial accounting would be approved.

De Silguy: optimistic over EMU deadline

Timothy Garton Ash, page 22

JOHN SCHULTS/REUTER

Nuns among a crowd of 120,000 who heard the Pope say Mass in Brittany yesterday

Pope reaffirms Vatican line on sex and celibacy

By Ben Macintyre

THE Pope yesterday reasserted the Roman Catholic Church's conservative teachings on marriage, abortion and sexuality, a day after accepting the resignation of the runaway Scottish bishop, Roderick Wright.

On the second day of his four-day tour in France, the Pope described the sexual act as an irreversible spiritual covenant within marriage, as he sought to rally his French flock in the face of increasing opposition to the Vatican's views on sexual morality and priestly celibacy.

Just hours after accepting the resignation of Mr Wright, the Pope praised the "free choice of celibacy" in an address to a group of priests and nuns at St Laurent-sur-Sèvre in western France.

"The demands of your vows may appear to your contemporaries difficult to understand and almost impossible to live up to. Do not let this upset you," the Pope said.

The Pope was greeted yesterday by a crowd of 120,000 pilgrims in Brittany, where he emphasised the sacrosanct nature of sex within marriage and gave a warning against a "climate of indifference and individualism".

At a meeting with 3,000 young French couples and their children in the hamlet of Sainte Anne d'Auray, a shrine to the mother of the Virgin Mary, the Pope, appearing less fatigued than on the day of his arrival, spoke of the virtues of Christian marriage and family values and described his listeners as "the salt of the earth".

"Many essential values are being questioned," the Pope said. "The family is going through many difficulties which sometimes weaken it."

He added that those who are separated, divorced or remarried should remain members of the Christian community, "while accepting in faith the truth which the Church carries in its discipline regarding matrimony.

"In married life, the physical relations are the sign and expression of the communion between two persons. The manifestation of tenderness and body language express the conjugal pact and represent the mystery of the covenant and the mystery of the union of Christ with the Church," he said.

The 21-stop papal tour is not only a test of Pope John Paul's fragile health but also of his diplomatic delicacy. The liberal wing of the French Catholic church is increasingly opposed to his strict line on priestly celibacy, abortion, contraception and homosexuality.

According to the latest polls, more than half of all French people strongly disagree with, or have reservations about, the Pope's teachings, a figure that has doubled since 1988.

Dozens of groups, including Freemasons, anarchists and a police union, will join a demonstration in Paris on Sunday in protest at the papal visit.

Leading article, page 23

Russia warns Nato on advance east

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

YEVGENI PRIMAKOV, the Russian Foreign Minister, yesterday issued a warning against any move to deploy Nato military equipment in the Eastern European countries which are expected to join the alliance as new members before the end of the century. He said that stationing Nato's military infrastructure closer to the borders of Russia was "unacceptable".

Speaking in Vienna before meeting Javier Solana, Nato's Secretary-General, Mr Primakov was reaffirming Russia's revised policy towards the alliance's expansion plans, outlined in June. Rather than oppose expansion outright, as it had done in the past, Moscow is trying to limit the impact of a Western alliance approaching its borders. Poland — which shares a frontier with Russia — the Czech Republic and Hungary are likely to be the first to join an expanded Nato.

Addressing the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which is based in Vienna, Mr Primakov said he realised that Moscow had no right of veto if former Warsaw Pact countries wanted to join Nato. He emphasised Russia's vision for a wider European security structure based on the OSCE. He said the OSCE, which includes most of Europe, the United States and Canada, was uniquely positioned to be Europe's main security body.

All organisations involved in security policy should have an input in a restructured OSCE, he said. That would include the United Nations, Nato, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Western European Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

After the meeting with the Nato Secretary-General, Mr Primakov announced that Russia will continue to provide troops for peacekeeping in Bosnia-Herzegovina next year after the Nato-led operation comes to an end.

Leading article, page 23

Anger at car rape ruling

Madrid: A woman alleging date rape appealed to the Supreme Court after a magistrate's tribunal in Valladolid, northern Spain, ruled that it was impossible to commit rape in a Renault Clio (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

In a judgment that angered women's groups, the tribunal ruled: "Even if you recline the seats to their fullest extent, the cramped interior configuration of the car ensures that the consummation of the act is quite impossible."

More medical tests for Yeltsin

From Associated Press
in Moscow

BORIS YELTSIN will remain in hospital for three or four more days of tests before his heart bypass operation, the Kremlin's chief doctor said yesterday.

A date for the 65-year-old Russian President's surgery is expected to be set on Wednesday at a doctors' meeting that will include Dr. Michael DeBakey, an American specialist, Dr Sergei Mironov said. Asked about rumours of liver problems that could complicate the surgery, Dr Mironov said that the liver was always a consideration with a patient of Mr Yeltsin's age, but there were "no big problems". Coronary artery bypass surgery normally has about a 96 per cent survival rate and specialists have said that the chances are good that Mr Yeltsin will return to vigorous health. However, undisclosed complications could make the operation significantly more dangerous. Rumours that Mr Yeltsin has other problems have circulated for years; his political career has been punctuated by sudden, unexplained absences and bouts of unusual behavior. This week speculation about additional health problems was fuelled by his week-long stay in hospital for tests. Aides said after he arrived last Friday that he would be there only through that weekend.

Dr Mironov played down talk of complications. "A very serious operation is ahead, which requires very significant preparation," he said.

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30p THE TIMES

Opportunity knocks, this Thursday.

From Thursday 26th September, The Times introduces an exciting new Appointments Section in three parts. It includes First Executive, especially for graduates and young professionals in the early stages of their careers. There's also Management Plus, covering positions for middle management, and Premier Appointments for senior vacancies.

http://www.the-times.co.uk CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

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THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF PROCTER & GAMBLE PAGE 29

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21 1996

Lloyds bid values Abbey Life at £4.4bn

By Adam Jones

LLOYDS TSB is to buy out the minority shareholding in Lloyds Abbey Life. The deal values the shares at 635p and the company at £4.4 billion. The bank already owns 62.6 per cent of the shares and had been widely expected to make the bancassurer a full subsidiary.

The bank also confirmed that Peter Ellwood, deputy group chief executive, will become chief executive in February when Sir Brian Pitman, the chief executive, becomes chairman — as revealed in *The Times* yesterday.

The proposal to make Lloyds Abbey Life a whollyowned subsidiary comes after speculation on a possible bid from Prudential. The rumours had lifted the share price from about 450p at the start of this year to 592p.

A source close to the deal said that the rumours had forced the bank's hand: "It has had to move earlier than it would have liked."

Both the bid and the boardroom changes are belated results of the merger of Lloyds and TSB last December when it was apparent that there were areas of overlap. TSB had its own general and life insurance arm, while Lloyds' majority stake in Lloyds Abbey Life gave it similar exposure through subsidiaries like the Black Horse Financial Services Group. There was also duplication in property services and in consumer financing.

The bid will enable Lloyds TSB to integrate some overlapping businesses. But it seems unlikely at this stage that there will be forced redundancies. A source close the bank said any changes to staffing levels would be absorbed by the natural flow of employees.

Stephen Maran, chief executive of Lloyds Abbey Life, said: "The relationship between Lloyds Abbey Life and Lloyds TSB needed to be the subject of discussion after the merger, and this is the right step for both organisations." He added that the company's progress in conforming to the review into pensions mis-selling would not be affected.

The agreed bid for the minority stake of 635p a share is 7 per cent higher than a closing price of 592p before yesterday's announcement.

Some analysts yesterday thought 635p was too much. Roman Cizdyn of Merrill Lynch said: "I think it's a high price." Lloyds TSB shares closed at 378½p, a fall of 12½p: Lloyds Abbey Life shares rose 28½p to 620½p.

However, it was widely thought that a deal was inevitable. On the whole banks are keen to move into the insurance market for its relatively low risk and volatility. One analyst said Lloyds TSB was prevented from acting earlier by the merger and subsequent acquisition of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society: "They would have had their hands pretty full."

Under the proposal, minority shareholders will be given seven Lloyds TSB ordinary shares for every six shares held. They will also get 300p per share in cash — it is expected that about 50p of this will come from a tax-efficient special dividend.

Shareholders will be allowed to take half their Lloyds TSB shares in cash, too. More details will be released early next week.

Tempus, page 30

PETER TREVNOR

Sir Brian Pitman, left, chairman-elect of Lloyds TSB, with Peter Ellwood yesterday

Boots in French skincare deal

By Sarah Cunningham

BOOTS said yesterday that it had acquired Laboratoires Lutsia, a French skincare specialist, for £115 million.

It said that the purchase by Boots Healthcare International would give BHI total sales in France of £57.5 million. It would also boost total BHI skincare sales to more than £75 million in a full year.

It has bought Laboratoires Lutsia from Rousel Uclaf, part of Hoechst Marion Rousel, which intends to concentrate on pharmaceuticals.

Boots said that BHI planned significant expansion of Lutsia's Lutsine anti-acne and Onagrine anti-ageing skincare ranges, particularly in export markets. Sales of the two products in France were £39.4 million in 1995.

The deal is in line with BHI plans to build businesses in each key European market place, particularly in its core products, which are analgesics under the Nurofen brand, cough and throat treatments, such as Strepsils, and skincare.

Boots said after the deal that these three areas would account for more than 60 per cent of BHI sales.

Lutsia has a 7 per cent share of French skincare products sold only through pharmacies and employs more than 200 people. BHI will use the Lutsia salesforce to promote its own brands of skincare while its own team will focus on Nurofen and Strepsils.

Barry Clare, managing director of BHI, said: "Together Lutsia and BHI will create a formidable business. Beyond France there is real potential for growth." The price includes repayment of inter-company debt of about Fr50 million. Boots shares closed up 5½p at 641½p.

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WEEKEND MONEY GUIDES

New four part series starts next week

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3964.1	(−10.2)
Yield	3.93%	
FT-SE A All share	1953.44	(−3.58)
Nikkei	21112.24	(−210.61)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5895.11	(+27.37)*
S&P Composite	686.77	(+3.77)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 3/16%*	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	96 11/32*	(96 9/32)
Yield	7.04%*	(7.05%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5 23/32%	(5 25/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	107⅝	(107½)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5555*	(1.5535)
London:		
$	1.5551	(1.5508)
DM	2.3558	(2.3480)
FFr	7.9845	(7.9919)
SFr	1.9282	(1.9286)
Yen	170.74	(169.47)
£ Index	86.1	(85.9)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5150*	(1.5138)
FFr	5.1325*	(5.1496)
SFr	1.2387*	(1.2430)
Yen	109.85*	(109.43)
$ Index	97.1	(97.0)

Tokyo close Yen 109.92

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec)	$21.40	($21.45)

GOLD

London close	$381.75	($382.85)

* denotes midday trading price

Cunard chairman leaves the bridge

By Oliver August

CUNARD, the cruise line operator, hit new problems yesterday when Peter Ward resigned as executive chairman.

He is the second chairman to have left Cunard after less than two years. John Olsen, his predecessor, was ousted in June last year after a bungled refit of the *QE2*.

Mr Ward's stewardship of Cunard was overshadowed by the incident in May in which the *Royal Viking Sun*, its newest and most luxurious liner, ran aground off Egypt.

Kvaerner, the engineering group that owns Cunard after taking over Trafalgar House, said that Mr Ward, who was based at Cunard's New York headquarters, had decided to return to London to pursue other interests. The former head of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars will not receive a pay-off.

Antti Pankakoski, currently vice-president of Kvaerner's shipbuilding business, is to succeed Mr Ward at Cunard.

Kvaerner said that companies interested in buying Cunard had approached it, but it was not in negotiations.

Ford joins rush to beat works council deadline

By Philip Bassett, industrial editor

FORD is expected today to become one of the last transnational firms to set up a consultative European-style works council before tomorrow's Brussels deadline for voluntary agreements on them.

The carmaker's move follows a rush of last-minute deals, including Unilever and Barclays Bank yesterday, to conclude European Works Council (EWC) agreements before tomorrow's deadline under an EU directive — in spite of the UK opt-out from the EU requirement. Ford confirmed yesterday that it will sign a draft deal for a works council covering all European employees, including those in the UK, by the deadline.

From Monday, companies setting up EWCs must do so in accordance with strict guidelines in the directive after the ending tomorrow of the period for voluntary agreements, allowing much greater latitude.

Unilever announced a council providing "effective" information and consultation for its 80,000 employees across Europe, including the UK: managers and 31 staff representatives from all EU countries and Switzerland will meet annually. The Barclays European forum will cover the bank's 80,000 employees in Europe, including the UK.

The UK opt-out from the Maastricht treaty social chapter makes it unnecessary for British companies covered by the EU directive to include UK staff, but many have done so rather than run two systems in Europe.

Wickes to explain on profits

By Sarah Cunningham

THE BOARD of Wickes, the DIY retailer, will next week prepare a letter to send to shareholders explaining how it came to overstate profits by £50 million over four years.

The board has seen early drafts of a report by Linklater & Paines, the solicitor, and Price Waterhouse, the accountant, which will be the basis for its explanation. Wickes plans to write to shareholders by the end of this month.

The solicitor's brief has been to concentrate on who was behind accounting irregularities that arose from the treatment of rebates from suppliers. It is not yet known whether the solicitor's report will be passed on to the police. Wickes has said it will not take any legal action.

The accountant will provide a restated, "clean" balance sheet. This will enable the shares, suspended on June 25 at 67p, to resume trading.

Wickes is thought to be looking at a £30 million rights issue once the full extent of the profits shortfall is in the open.

Puttnam to quit Chrysalis board after rows

By Jason Nissé

SIR David Puttnam, the film producer whose successes include *Chariots of Fire* and *Midnight Express*, is to resign from the board of Chrysalis, the media group, amid rows about the running of the company.

His resignation is expected to be announced on Monday and follows his public condemnation of the way Chrysalis, which owns TV, music and sports interests, has handled its withdrawal from film production.

Sir David's departure is also expected to bring to the boil a row about the way the loss-making group is run by Chris Wright, its founder, chairman and largest shareholder.

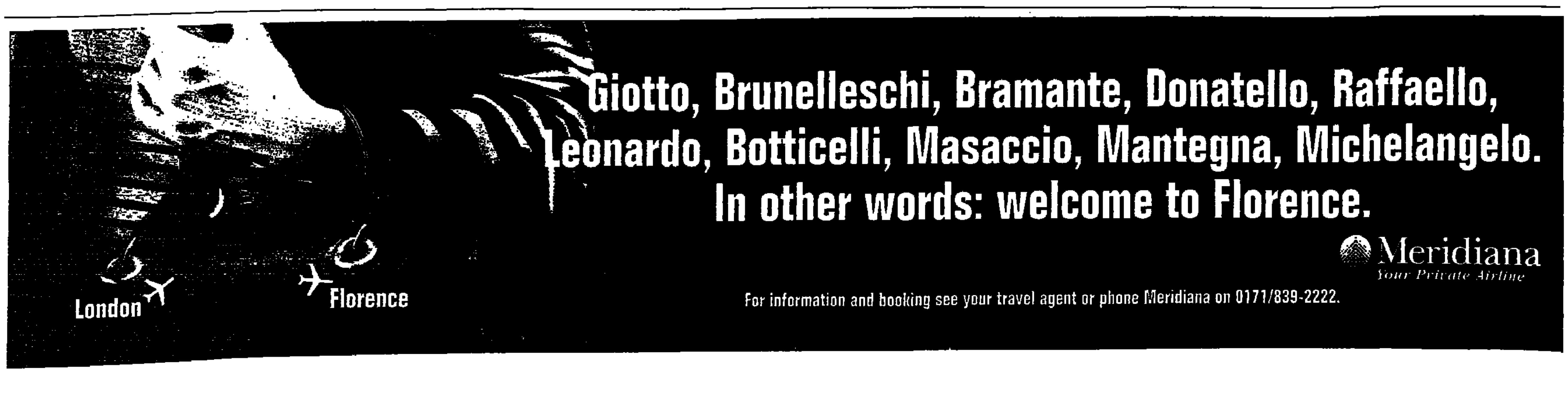
Chrysalis closed its film division earlier this month, having lost about £2 million of a £4 million investment in attempting to develop a UK-based feature film studio. The decision to pull out was made by Mick Pillsworth, chief executive of Chrysalis Visual Entertainment, with Mr Wright's backing.

However Sir David, who used to run Columbia Pictures, the Hollywood film studio, was unhappy about not being consulted as he was publicly involved in launching the project.

He said in a written statement: "Given the choices the company has to make about its future, I have few arguments with the fundamental decision, although as a member of the board I have enormous reservations about the way it has been implemented."

Sir David was out of the country yesterday and unable to comment further. However he is understood to have been pressing, along with other members of the board, for the appointment of a full-time managing director.

A candidate was brought in to meet heads of department before he decided to reject the post.



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Regulators must decide on free market or control

EXECUTIVE VOICE

Robert Ayling

If, like me, you were born during the second half of Eric Hobsbawm's short 20th century (1914-1996) continuous relative decline has seemed normal. Neither the extremity of the terror of war nor the victories have been our experience. But the extremities at the beginning of the short century have shadowed our lives.

It was not long before 1914 that Britain's economic wealth and military strength equalled that of the US. And even in the 1960s, a government poster campaign trumpeted: "Britain leads the world in ..." quoting atomic power and shipbuilding among a long list of industries. Today a campaign like that would be ridiculous. Not just America and Japan, but China, the "tigers" and the European Union have moved Britain into a different place.

Eleven years ago I was fortunate to join a management team led by John King and Colin Marshall, who seemed less afffected by the shadow of our history. They, whether through personality or experience, (Colin's formative experience had all been in the US) seemed more interested in doing things and being creative, not worrying so much why things hadn't happened. And they ran a business that they thought could be better.

British aviation can claim to have a leading position in the world. How is this? Partly history, partly entrepreneurial spirit. British trailblazers led the field, launching the world's first scheduled passenger flight, in 1919, to Paris. A Briton invented the jet engine (but it was exploited in America) and automatic landings. British Airways' predecessors — Imperial Airways, BOAC, BEA and many more — made London the aviation crossroads of the world, inaugurated the first civilian passenger jets and first supersonic services, created a world-spanning route network, and scored many industry firsts. And then, more recently, there were other airline entrepreneurs, Adam Thompson, Michael Bishop, Freddie Laker and Richard Branson. They, too, look forward not back.

London's financial services are comparable. Since Big Bang, London has had to fight for its place as a major financial centre. So far it has succeeded. But now we face the challenge of the next century: how to keep and improve Britain's place in aviation.

The challenge comes from the emerging global alliances, which, with privatisation, are transforming the airline industry. They will offer consumers lower prices, easier connections, better networks, greater choice, better services, and liberalised markets. I believe that we must embrace this change and look forward again.

After 75 years (most of the short century) most airlines and regulators still think of nationality. They are more concerned with the possessive adjective: "our" airlines, "our" route rights. The roots of the current restrictions on who can own airlines lie in defence not economic considerations. Their sell-by date has passed.

Resolving tensions betweeen national interests and what companies want will not be easy. The nature of air travel is changing. As competition intensifies, newly privatised airlines will seek efficiencies by belonging to one global alliance or another. We can already foresee 600-seat intercontinental aircraft connecting traffic from major exchange points. Instead of national citizens, airlines will become world citizens.

Because so many passengers now transfer internationally, alliances must compete for their total journey with a single good-value fare, well timed connections, transfers within one terminal, good schedules, frequent flyer rewards for the whole trip (not just one sector) and lounges at airports where they do not fly themselves.

A growing number of European/US alliances already offer these benefits. Passengers from Des Moines, Iowa, to Dusseldorf can choose Lufthansa/United, KLM/Northwest or Delta-Sabena-Swissair-Austrian.

Airline services across the Atlantic have expanded remarkably since 1995 when President Clinton liberalised airline treaties with many European countries. Britain was not among them. I have recently called for Britain to move in this direction too and I welcome the Government's positive response. It has said that BA's proposed alliance agreement with American Airlines is a basis on which liberalisation can go ahead.

The central issue is the 1977 UK/US Air Services treaty known as "Bermuda 2". It stops UK airlines flying routes within the US and US airlines flying to London, in sharp contrast to Europe's fast opening skies, blocking progress.

The market place now is Europe/USA, not UK/USA. Liberalisation will help Britain's industry to grow. Customers will enjoy lower prices, more competition and better service. We would also be able to attract new transfer passengers on the combined network to the benefit of both BA and American Airlines and both countries. Now our regulators must decide where our public interest lies. Do they want a free market — or a controlled one? If progress is blocked or airlines are burdened with concessions not expected from competitors, Britain will lose its lead. So Bermuda 2 must change — on terms fair to both sides.

Many forces are transforming the aviation industry as they are transforming the world. Airlines are being privatised, they will be less featherbedded by governments, they will become more efficient. Fares are falling steadily in real terms. New technology will offer the chance to maintain momentum.

British Airways has just unveiled plans for its second transformation to offer new customer benefits, restructure and reskill the workforce, shed 5,000 jobs and achieve £1 billion in efficiencies — while we are ahead.

The author is chief executive of British Airways

Colonial to share out £500m

About 360,000 UK investors look set to receive average payouts of £1,300 when Colonial Mutual Life Assurance secures a stock market listing early next year.

Colonial, the smallest of Australia's big three mutual life insurance groups, is to give A$1.3 billion (about £500 million) when its shares are listed on the Australian and New Zealand stock exchanges.

SEC inquiry

Merrill Lynch, the US bank, and senior staff are likely to be charged with securities law violations by the Securities and Exchange Commission over the collapse of Orange County, California's investment fund in 1994.

Dividend up

Gradus Group, the manufacturer of flooring accessories and lighting systems, is lifting the interim dividend to 1.8p a share (1p) in spite of a fall in pretax profits to £1.53 million (£1.78 million) for the six months to June 30.

Opec set for $26bn gain in Gulf crisis

By Martin Barrow

A SHARP rise in oil prices, caused by increased tension in the Gulf, could generate additional export revenues of between $20 billion and $26 billion for members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

Petroleum exports by the 11 members of Opec should total about $158 billion this year, up $26 billion or 20 per cent from the $132 billion earned last year, according to the Centre for Global Energy Studies (CGES), based in London.

Oil, at an average of $19 for the benchmark North Sea Brent crude so far this year, traded at $21.79 per barrel yesterday. It should easily outstrip last year's $17 average during the final quarter of the year.

Higher oil prices mean more expensive heating bills this winter for countries in the northern hemisphere and further increases in the cost of petrol. But increased revenue will allow debt-ridden Opec producers — most of which made modest assumptions for oil prices in their budget projections — to eat into deficits, pay debts, ease financial reform programmes and spend on infrastructure.

Leo Drollas, chief economist at CGES, said: "Opec's in for a much-needed increase in revenues because we don't see much chance of oil prices coming down during the remainder of the year."

The military standoff between Iraq and the US sent Brent to five-year highs last week and left tight markets to cope without the expected resumption of Iraqi exports under a United Nations oil-for-food arrangement.

Saudi Arabia, Opec's biggest producer, which budgeted for crude prices of between $14 and $14.50 a barrel in January, can expect to make up to an extra $10 billion, according to Middle East analysts. That would more than wipe out the $4.9 billion deficit on spending of $40 billion projected by Riyadh this year. Foreign currency reserves, run down during the 1990-91 Gulf War, are being rebuilt and debts to contractors repaid.

Signet revamp plan

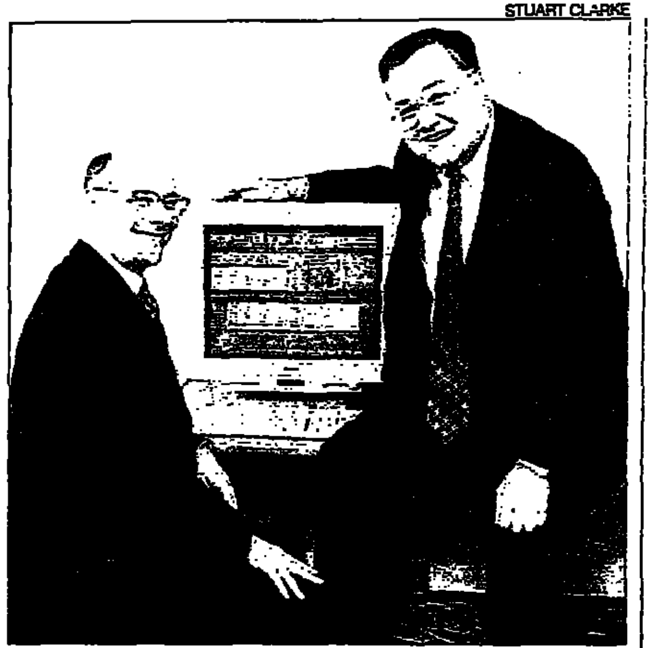
THE BOARD of Signet, which has called off talks to sell the Ernest Jones and H Samuel jewellery chains, is now aiming for a capital reconstruction (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Board members yesterday explained the surprise decision to abort a proposed sale to Apax Partners, which had offered £278 million. Preference shareholders, who own 25 per cent of the company's capital, are owed about £150 million in unpaid dividends. The main shareholders are the Active Value Fund, Everest Capital, CSFB and MD Sass of New York.

The company hopes that its nine different classes of shareholders and its banks will agree to a capital reconstruction involving a debt-for-equity swap.

Tempus, page 30

STUART CLARKE



Michael Waller-Bridge, left, with Lasmo's Dick Smernoff

Tradepoint to expand

TRADEPOINT, the new electronic rival to the London Stock Exchange, is to move into either bonds or foreign equities after failing to make a serious impact on the UK equities market in its first year (Fraser Nelson writes).

Figures released yesterday show that the company, which broke the Stock Exchange's 200-year monopoly last year, carved out a market share of less than 0.05 per cent in its first year — 20 times below the 2 per cent share it needs to break even. It traded £300 million of stock in its maiden year, connecting 2,800 buyers and sellers. In the year to June, the main exchange processed bargains worth £716 billion.

Michael Waller-Bridge, Tradepoint's chief executive, said that while the group was still a long way from breaking even, it had become established as a serious rival to the main exchange.

Tempus, page 30

Microsoft in anti-trust Net inquiry

From Richard Thomson in New York

MICROSOFT, the computer company, is under investigation by the US Justice Department over alleged anti-trust practices that involve using its market dominance to sell software for the Internet.

The investigation is the latest development in the war between Microsoft and smaller rivals such as Netscape to become a leader in selling browser software needed for surfing the Internet. The winner of this battle is likely to set the standards for Net technology, just as Microsoft now sets the standards for personal computer software.

Netscape, the first into the field, has about 80 per cent of the browser market but Microsoft has put massive resources into gaining a larger share. Netscape accuses Microsoft of using illegal tactics in giving away its browser software with other software such as Windows 95, and giving it a more prominent position on computer screens than Netscape's Navigator.

Microsoft has been under intermittent investigation for six years over whether or not it violated anti-trust rules in selling its PC software.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.06	1.90
Austria Sch	17.55	16.05
Belgium Fr	51.39	47.09
Canada $	2.234	2.074
Cyprus Cyp£	0.757	0.702
Denmark Kr	9.62	8.82
Finland Mkk	7.61	6.96
France Fr	8.40	7.75
Germany Dm	2.51	2.30
Greece Dr	390	365
Hong Kong $	12.65	11.65
Iceland	115	95
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.32	4.67
Italy Lira	2477	2322
Japan Yen	184.70	168.70
Malta	0.601	0.546
Netherlds Gld	2.788	2.558
New Zealand $	2.36	2.14
Norway Kr	10.61	9.81
Portugal Esc	250.50	232.00
S Africa Rd	7.57	6.77
Spain Pta	204.00	191.00
Sweden Kr	10.91	10.11
Switzerland Fr	2.06	1.88
Turkey Lira	143300	135300
USA $	1.652	1.522

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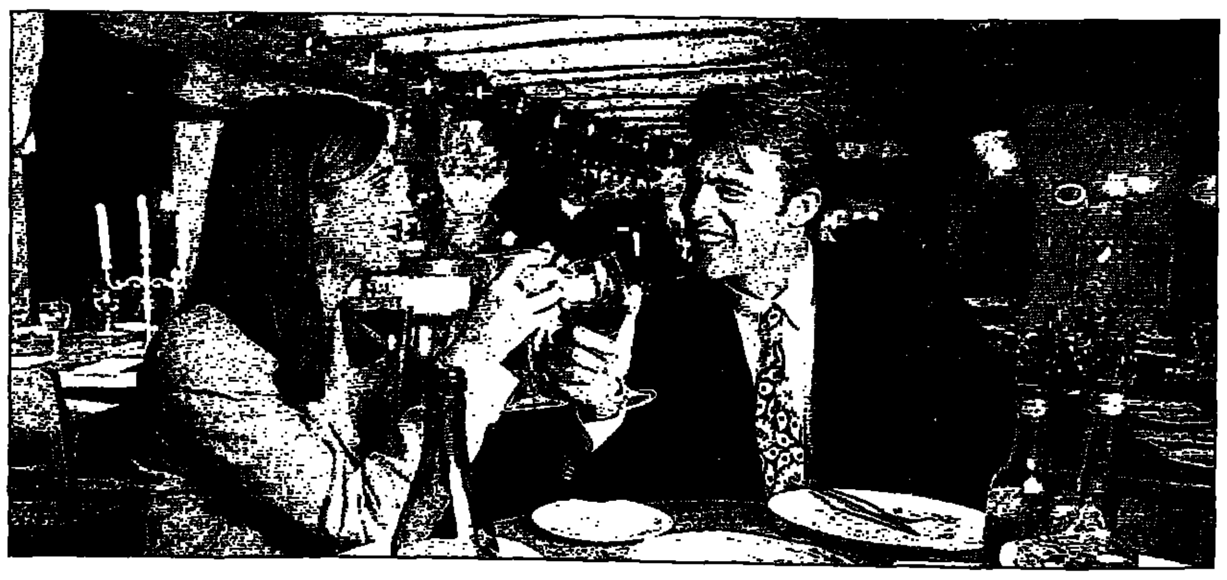

The Times is offering readers exclusive savings of up to 50% on short breaks at 365 Johansens recommended hotels, inns and country houses throughout Great Britain, Ireland and, for the first time this year, Europe.

The offer, valid until May 31, 1997, entitles you to savings of 25% to 50% off the normal bed and breakfast rates for two people staying for a minimum of two and a maximum of five consecutive nights. At some hotels you may be able to stay for longer. A full list of participating Johansens establishments appeared in our 24-page colour guide on Tuesday.

To take advantage of this offer book direct with your chosen hotel quoting *The Times* offer and present a voucher with two pre-printed tokens plus a further two tokens on arrival at the hotel. Token six appears below and a second voucher will be printed tomorrow. A voucher and tokens will also appear in The Sunday Times this week.

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CHANGING TIMES

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: DAVID ELSTEIN

Broadcaster who leapt at chance to 'Take 5'

Eric Reguly talks to the TV executive with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to influence the lives of millions of Britons

ADRIAN BROOKS

David Elstein, the first chief executive of Channel 5: "At long last, I am in control of a major broadcaster and making the decisions at the pace that I want."

DAVID Elstein's first day at Channel 5 was met with good and bad news. The good news was that the Government had finally awarded the channel an extra broadcast frequency, allowing it to reach another two million or so homes. The bad news was that "retuning" those extra homes to receive the channel without interference would delay its launch, while increasing start-up costs. "It makes a delicate operation even more complicated," Elstein said.

Indeed, Channel 5, whose publicity effort had been geared to a splashy New Year's Day debut, probably will not hit the airwaves until mid-February and some television executives think March is the better bet. They suspect that Channel 5's effort to retune more than ten million homes was cracking under pressure even before the second frequency was granted.

Elstein, 51, who became chief executive last Monday, admits the retuning campaign has hit a few snags but, so far, no disasters. None of the retuners has been accused of assault, theft or damaging property — any of which would have triggered a public relations nightmare — although there have been a few instances of electronic stalemate. "There was one guy who took three days to retune a house when it should have been 20 minutes," he said.

The recruitment process, though, is going more slowly than expected. Even before the extra frequency was awarded, Channel 5's roll-out plan called for the hiring and training of 7,000 retuners, all of whom were to be rigorously checked for criminal records. So far, only 4,000 have signed up and about 500,000 homes — less than 5 per cent of the total in the newly enlarged coverage area — have been adapted to receive the channel.

If this were not headache enough, Elstein has to commission productions, create programming schedules and marketing and publicity campaigns, sell advertising, hire management, renovate offices and prevent anxiety attacks among Channel 5's shareholders as delays and costs mount. The retuning bill is now estimated at £120 million, raising Channel 5's total launch costs to more than £250 million.

It seems overwhelming but getting Channel 5 off the ground is seen as the most attractive job to appear in the industry for some time. It is the country's last terrestrial broadcaster and its new boss has a once-in-a-lifetime chance to stamp his personality on a service with the potential to influence the daily lives of most Britons.

Its viewers will not be required to pay a fee or buy new hardware or software; they simply have to turn it on or off. The problem is gaining their sustained attention. The consensus is that unless Channel 5 grabs 5 per cent of the total viewing audience, equivalent to about 8 per cent of the total non-BBC audience, it will fail to attract enough national advertisers to make it comfortably profitable. Channel 5's viability is not assured in an industry that is fragmenting rapidly — Britain is set to become one of the world's most competitive "multichannel" markets with the arrival of hundreds of digital pay-TV channels.

As it is, no advertiser has made a commitment to Channel 5. One senior airtime sales manager said: "This is a cynical business. Advertisers will not agree to spend a penny until they see a firm launch date and the programming schedule, both of which are unknown at this stage."

> ❛I said I would join only if I was chief executive❜

Fellow TV executives say that, at least on paper, Elstein seems eminently qualified for the challenge. He is one of the few senior TV managers with experience in public, commercial and satellite broadcasting. The latter is especially important because Channel 5 expects to form a number of joint ventures with BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster that is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, and his former employer.

Richard Dunn, 53, the executive director of News International Television, said: "David really wanted to run Channel 5 and make a success of it. He has a rare combination of abilities to permit him to do that. He has a good grasp of marketing and programming, together with a shrewd grasp of financing and business issues."

Channel 5 has been in Elstein's sights for some time. He joined BSkyB as head of programming in 1993 and less than two years later found himself moonlighting as the chief executive of New Century Television, the BSkyB-led investor group that was formed to bid for the Channel 5 licence. If New Century had won, Elstein would have left BSkyB to become Channel 5's boss. But last October, a group called Channel 5 Broadcasting — whose shareholders are Pearson and United News & Media, both of Britain, Warburg Pincus of America and CLT of Luxembourg — snatched the prize with a £22 million bid. Elstein's dreams were shattered.

He returned his attentions to BSkyB but privately decided that he was ready for a change. He did not renew his employment contract with BSkyB late last year and Sam Chisholm, the broadcaster's chief executive, did not put him under pressure to make a commitment. Channel 5, meanwhile, was in the thick of making launch plans under Ian Ritchie, the former managing director of London News Network.

Elstein's fortunes changed, as they often do for executives, during a chance social encounter. In early August, he attended a film in the Walt Disney company's private screening room in Kensington, and ran into Lord Hollick, the chief executive of United News & Media and a Channel 5 director. "He asked me if I would be interested in joining Channel 5 and I said I would come only as chief executive," Elstein said. "It didn't take long after that." He signed his contract on August 28 — three years at about £300,000 a year plus a performance bonus.

The irony is that Elstein never thought he would be working beyond 50. He has made enough to retire and has always been attracted to academia. Channel 5, he said, was just too good to turn down.

Elstein was born in Slough in 1944 and grew up in West Hampstead, London. His Jewish parents, Albert and Millie, were lucky to be alive. A flu epidemic after the First World War left them orphaned in Poland, separated from their siblings who ended up scattered all over the world. They were adopted by poor east London Jewish families. Both ended up in the *shmatte* trade; Albert became a tailor and Millie ran a women's fashion shop called Ian Harvey in Golders Green. The shop provided young David with his first employment and his first exposure to the marvels of finance.

David and his two brothers lived well for the children of refugees. "We grew up experiencing a middle-class life and very little anti-Semitism," he said. "It was a period when you could see the generation in front of you making considerable headway in terms of business, and it didn't feel like there were any barriers."

His parents, though, could not let go of their past. They spent much of their lives searching for lost family members. Millie eventually tracked down a sister in São Paolo, Brazil, and saw her for the first time in 50 years in the mid-1970s. Albert dreamt of better things. "He was a frustrated intellectual who read his *Economist* to the very end," Elstein said.

Elstein got bitten by the academic bug, too. He gained a double first in history at Cambridge at the age of 19, and for lack of anything better do to, joined the BBC as a general trainee. He has been in TV ever since. After four years at the BBC, he spent 14 years as a producer and director at Thames Television, LWT, Goldcrest, Primetime and Brook Productions, his own production company. He returned to Thames in 1986 and joined BSkyB seven years later.

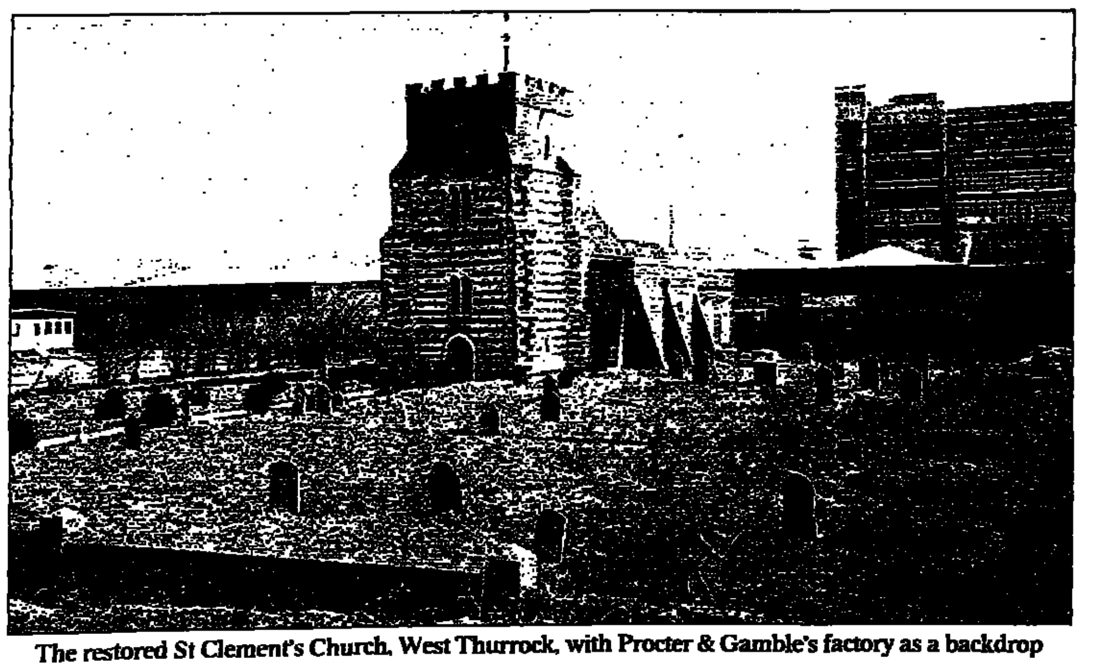
Elstein said that he was happiest editing *This Week*, ITV's former current affairs programme, during the mid-1970s. But the hours were gruelling and his wife Jenny, a former on-air reporter for the BBC and Thames, made him quit before any damage was done. The other job that stood out was the acclaimed *World at War* series for ITV. He wrote and produced three of the 26 episodes and tried to commission a similar series on the First World War for BSkyB.

As his first week ended, Elstein had been worn down by meetings with civil servants, advertisers, regulators, producers and programmers and endless queries about the delay in the retuning schedule. But he said that he was not frustrated. Creating something the size of Channel 5 could never be easy: "At long last, I am in control of a major broadcaster and making the decisions at the pace I want. The retuning is as complex as I ever imagined, but the opportunities are even more exciting."

HIDDEN ASSETS

'Four Weddings' church owes rescue to soap giant

Joanna Pitman on Procter & Gamble's resurrection of a delapidated neighbour



The restored St Clement's Church, West Thurrock, with Procter & Gamble's factory as a backdrop

Of all the financially rewarding assets in which a cash-rich multinational could invest, an early 12th-century parish church on an industrial estate on the Thames would surely rank an unlikely last on a long list of choices.

But Procter & Gamble has gone for the unlikely last in renting and restoring St Clement's Church, a fine stone pilgrim church near its West Thurrock detergents plant. Community gratitude was to replace cash returns on this investment, but since the spruce-up, the church has also earned its keep as the location of the funeral in the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

The church's isolated position, away from any dwellings, has long been blamed for its decline, even from its beginnings as a fisherman's refuge, a low thatched building that was later rebuilt in stone and became the last stop-off point for Canterbury-bound pilgrims before crossing the Thames.

After centuries of desolation and neglect, delapidation set in seriously in the late 19th century and church attendances fell to single figures, resulting in an on-and-off closure. By the 1970s the last remaining weekly services had been discontinued in the winter months because of cold and damp. The burdens of maintenance were beginning to prove too heavy for the local community. In 1977, after a history of almost nine centuries, the church was finally deconsecrated.

Industry came to the rescue. "The fact that the church lies in the shadow of a giant soap factory may have led some wag to remark that cleanliness is next to godliness. But it also led to its rescue and return to community use," says Christopher Harrold, the church historian. "By 1940 the first cases of soap were rolling off the production lines of Procter & Gamble's newest factory in West Thurrock. The company has a strong sense of history and I suppose it felt it wanted to put something into the community in which it had prospered."

In the late 1980s, Procter & Gamble decided that to commemorate its 150th anniversary it would take responsibility for St Clement's Church and churchyard and return them to the use of the community for educational and cultural purposes. The fabric of the church has been conserved and the interior refurbished. The restored weathercock is a model of the first *Ark Royal*, a recognition that St Clement was a patron saint of sailors. Medieval clay floor tiles dating back to the 13th and 14th centuries have been excavated and relaid. Two medieval doors in the south chapel have been repaired and rehung, and an impressive range of marble monuments and effigies have been remounted. In the north chapel a number of small panels of medieval glass have been preserved and remounted. And a selection of lost 16th-century brasses have been replaced with replicas set in their original stone bases.

The churchyard has also been restored as far as possible to its medieval character and now contains a wildlife sanctuary stocked with rare plants and shrubs.

The church has had a curious history and still harbours many excellent mysteries. Restorers are still hoping to match the discovery a century ago of a sea captain named Nathaniel Grantham, pickled whole in rum.

You pay good money for your flight, then we recharge you.

The New Arrivals Lounge at Heathrow. UNITED AIRLINES

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares approach 4,000 before rate hopes fade

THE London stock market threw away an early lead to end the week on a flat note as the prospect of a rise in US interest rates next week loomed large.

In early trading yesterday the FT-SE 100 index reached a new intra-day's high within six points of the 4,000 level before running out of steam. It closed 10.2 points down at 3,964.1 despite an opening rise in the Dow Jones average of almost 30 points. There was a loss on the week of just 3.8.

Lingering hopes that Monday's monetary meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England will signal a cut in rates have all but vanished.

The Federal Reserve Open Market Committee meets on Tuesday and it now seems certain that US rates will have to rise. Faced with such a threat, the Chancellor is unlikely to consider forcing through any further cuts, especially when the Governor has already signalled he would like to see interest rates back up to 6 per cent.

The number of shares traded overall grew to 786 million with market-makers squaring up positions as the expiry of the September series of the financial future passed off uneventfully.

Among leaders **Rentokil** dropped 9½p to 432½p after a large line of shares went through as part of a bought deal. SBC Warburg, the bank, is believed to have picked up 7.53 million shares at 427p before selling them on at 432p and 433p. The seller is thought to have been a recovery fund with stock in BET before it was bought by Rentokil.

Sir Clive Thompson, Rentokil chief executive, said: "Very few institutional shareholders in BET took cash because the alternative offer was worth much more. As they now take advantage of the strength of the Rentokil share price and sell their stock, it is being snapped up by institutions previously underweight".

Early attention was focused on **Lloyds Abbey**, up 28½p at 620½p, as **Lloyds TSB** confirmed plans to bid for the minority 38 per cent stake it does not already own. The bank is offering 635p a share, valuing the entire group at £4.4 billion. But the offer price falls well short of the 700p being bandied around by speculators earlier in the week. Lloyds TSB tumbled 12½p to 378½p as the City absorbed details of the deal. Two large buyers who snapped up stock in Lloyds TSB on Thursday at 400p are now counting a sizeable paper loss.

News of the deal gave a fresh boost to **Legal & General**, up 18p at 774p, while **Sun Life** firmed 1¾p to 235¾p in the wake of figures on Thursday. The insurance composites were also marked higher with **General Accident** putting on 7p at 680p, **Guardian Royal Exchange** 1½p at 255p, and **Royal Sun Alliance** 1p to 397p.

Boots the chemist rose 5½p to 641½p as the market digested details of the acquisition of Laboratoires Lutsia, the skin care specialist, from Roussel Uclaf for £115 million.

Zeneca ran into profit-taking, finishing 15p lower on the day at £15.75. On Thursday the shares topped £16 before closing at a new high on revived talk of a bid from Roche, the Swiss pharmaceutical giant. City speculators say the Swiss are prepared to offer £19.50 a share, valuing Zeneca at about £19 billion.

The pub and restaurant operators enjoyed selective support after a positive trading statement from **Greenalls Group**, up 14p at 579p, which last year paid more than £500 million for rival Boddingtons. Profits were significantly ahead of last year. The news put some sparkle into **Compass**, up 5½p at at 566p, **PizzaExpress**, 3½p to 446½p, **JD Wetherspoon**, 12½p to £10.42½, and **Whitbread**, 5½p to 696½. Takeover target **Tom Cobleigh** also put on 4½p at 233p.

Matthew Clark, the drinks distributor, fell 7½p to 350p. The group has embarked on an institutional roadshow designed to halt the recent collapse in the share price and instil fresh confidence in the group after last week's profits warning. The company maintains sales have been ravaged by the introduction of alcoholic lemonades. **HP Bulmer**, which has held market share despite the "alcopops", fell 19p to 517½p.

Mirror Group advanced 9½p to 222p as Salomon Brothers, the US securities house reiterated its "buy" recommendation after last week's interim figures.

RMC Group bounced back with a rise of 16½p at £11.27 after reporting a sharp drop in half-year profits on Thursday. **Redland** was steady at 455½p ahead of half-year figures next week also expected to show pre-tax profits tumbling from £165 million to £86 million.

Signet, the debt-laden jewellery retailer, fell 2¾p to 23p after confirming talks over the disposal of its H Samuel and Ernest Jones jewellery business with Apax Partners, the venture capital specialist, had been aborted. Apax had been prepared to pay £280 million but terms for the transfer of property leases could not be agreed.

Panmure Gordon, the broker, is a buyer of **LucasVarity**, up 7p at 248½p, ahead of its debut as a constituent of the top 100 companies on Monday. It has also put **FKI**, 1p firmer at 200p, on its shopping list, but has turned seller of **Babcock International**, unchanged at 75p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Brokers reported a further flattening of the yield curve as shorts again lost ground with the prospect fading fast of a further cut in interest accompanying Monday's monetary meeting.

Prices at the longer end were marked higher but business was a low-key affair with investors reluctant to open fresh positions ahead of the auction. At the longer end, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose ⁷⁄₃₂ to £99⁵⁄₁₆, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 rose ¹⁄₁₆ to £103⁷⁄₁₆.

In futures the December series of the long gilt put on £⅛ to close at £107⅝ as 37,000 contracts were completed.

☐ **NEW YORK:** A revitalised transport sector led shares on Wall Street higher. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 27.37 points stronger at 5,895.11.

Matthew Clark, which has lost out to "alcopops", fell 7½p

Cadbury Schweppes rose 3p to 508½p. It seems directors were in an upbeat mood at a cocktail party given for David Wellings, the outgoing chief executive, the other night and were confident that Brussels will give the go-ahead for the sale of the group's 51 per cent in Coca-Cola Schweppes Beverages for £623 million.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Blenheim	421p	+53½p	New bid approach
Zeneca	£15.75	+27½p	Bid speculation revived
Treats Group	105½p	-29½p	Profits warning
Exco International	70½p	-16p	Profits down/dividend halved
Roxboro Group	242½p	-67½p	Profits warning
Claremont Garments	221½p	-16p	First-half profits down
Lloyds Abbey	620½p	+38p	Lloyds TSB bid for minority stake
Go-Ahead Group	385p	+67½p	Wins Thames Trains franchise
BTG	£22.17½p	+£3.67½	Kleinwort Benson says buy

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5895.11 (+27.37)
S&P Composite	686.77 (+3.77)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	21112.24 (-210.61)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	11592.36 (+5.68)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	565.70 (+1.89)
Sydney:	
AO	2240.8 (-6.3)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2646.10 (+21.66)
Singapore:	
Straits	2187.86 (-18.23)
Brussels:	
General	9733.97 (+51.39)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2079.46 (-2.87)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	774.80 (-1.10)
London:	
FT 30	2940.9 (-5.6)
FT 100	3964.1 (-10.2)
FT-SE Mid 250	4428.2 (+0.7)
FT-SE-A 350	1977.4 (-3.9)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1703.02 (+7.26)
FT A All-Share	1953.44 (-3.58)
FT Non Financials	2057.08 (-3.18)
FT Fixed Interest	113.15 (+0.01)
FT Govt Secs	93.31 (-0.23)
Bargains	41183
SEAQ Volume	786.8m
USM (Datastrm)	206.92 (-1.14)
US$	1.5550 (+0.0040)
German Mark	2.3557 (+0.0076)
Exchange Index	86.1 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
E:ECU	1.2310
£:SDR	1.0768
RPI	153.1 Aug (2.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	152.8 Aug (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Amer Opps U Ln	100	...
Barbican Health	62½	...
Dairy Crest Gp	184½	...
Dentmaster Hldgs	4	...
Electronic Retail	241	...
Fayrewood	45½	...
GT Chile Growth	2587½	- 06¼
Grosvenor Land	14½	...
Hambros Smlr Asn C	65	...
Hoare Govett 1000 C	97½	...
Life Numbers	12	...
Life Numbers Wts	5	...
Pemberstone Wrts	6	...
Polydoc	70½	...
Regent Kngpn Chle	2734½	- 06¼
Schrod Emg Cou Wts	39	...
Schrod Emg Countrs	94	...
Selector	68	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

BICC n/p (270)	31½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Go-Ahead	385p (+17½p)
Courts Furnish	965p (+35p)
Pifco	292½p (+8p)
Greenalls Gp	579p (+14½p)
Seton Health	512½p (+12p)
Legal & Gen	774p (+18p)
Henlys	562p (+12p)
Psion	454p (+8p)
Clinton Cards	160p (+9½p)
Caradon	249p (+7p)
Nat Express	501p (+7½p)
FALLS:	
Bluebird Toys	141½p (-10p)
Scoba	613½p (-24p)
Bulmer (HP)	517½p (-19p)
Fine Art Dev	485p (-13½p)
Alumasc	400p (-10p)
Cohen (A)	545p (-10p)
Delphi	545p (-10p)
Eurotherm	542½p (-10p)
Rentokil	432½p (-9p)
Matthew Clark	350p (-7½p)
Sainsbury J	369p (-6p)

Closing Prices Page 43

TEMPUS

Match of mutual benefit

SO LLOYDS TSB has at last decided to make an honest woman of Lloyds Abbey Life. After months of speculation, where the Prudential was mooted as a potential rival, the banking group has announced its intention to convert its 63 per cent holding into full ownership. It may be no coincidence that the announcement came as Peter Ellwood was named as the bank's new chief executive. Lloyds TSB seems now to see its future as a leading UK retail bank, providing a range of carpet-slipper-type financial services products. Gone is its past as an international buccaneer. No more will Lloyds be the major player it once was in the Latin American and other foreign markets.

Lloyds TSB's share price dropped to 378½p at the close yesterday — down 12½p — while Lloyds Abbey Life rose 28½p to 620½p. But the purchase makes sense, even though the bank was bullied into it a little early by the rumour-fuelled rises in the share price.

Insurance offers banks high-quality earnings, with greater predictability than some of their traditional core businesses. Lloyds Abbey Life has produced a string of good results, recording better-than-expected profits for the first six months of this year — a 28 per cent jump to £259 million before tax. Integration of the TSB and Lloyds Abbey Life insurance operations should not be too difficult. Both specialise in unit-linked business, rather than traditional with-profits policies. It has been suggested that its profile among independent financial advisers could be improved by a strategic acquisition. But with mutual insurers proving resistant to takeover, another option would be to develop more IFA-friendly products.

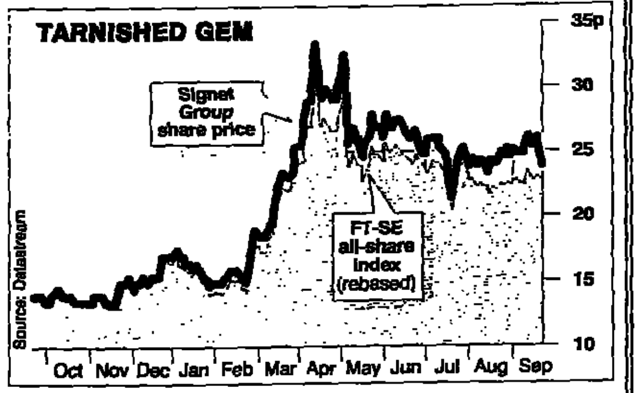
Signet Group

AFTER several months of talking, Signet this week came within a whisker of agreeing to sell H Samuel and Ernest Jones. Its decision to pull out seems to have been mainly because of worries about contingent liabilities on many of the 600 stores it was proposing to sell. This is understandable. No retailer wants to end up in the highly embarrassing position in which Sears found itself when the shoe stores it sold to Facia ended back in its lap after that company collapsed.

Signet was also apparently encouraged to believe that it could afford to hang on to the chains by the better than expected trading figures it reported this week.

If the two chains can carry on trading well in the run-up to Christmas, the argument runs, Signet will have a better chance of persuading its disgruntled preference shareholders to accept a deal under which they will sacrifice some of the £150 million they are owed in dividends.

How amenable they are to this will become clear only in coming weeks. A good trading performance could also, in the long run, mean a buyer is found for the two jewellers that would pay more than the £280 million Apax was offering. Signet seems convinced it has far more options than anyone else thought, but until it can say that its banks and preference shareholders share its optimism, it would be wise to carry on giving Signet shares a very wide berth.



Source: Datastream

Greenalls Group

GREENALLS' performance this year has resembled one of those football teams that forever bounces between divisions. The shares received a boost early in the year when the company finally made it to the FT-SE 100. But at the beginning of the summer the company was relegated from the top flight and lost ground as the index funds, which had only bought in a few months before, sold out.

Greenalls is still hovering just below the FT-SE 100 cut-off line and it is not impossible, if the company makes another major acquisition or simply enjoys a strong run of sentiment, that it will go through the same process all over again. But this should not detract from the merits of Greenalls' business. As yesterday's trading statement demonstrated, the company is in good shape and has successfully integrated the Boddington's acquisition. Greenalls is also focused on the North, away from the overcrowded branded retail market in the South, leaving plenty of room for expansion.

The shares are likely to be a little volatile as long as the FT-SE uncertainty continues. But even after yesterday's rise, they are a long way short of their year high and remain undervalued in comparison with some of the trendier stocks in the sector.

Tradepoint

AFTER a full year of hammering, Tradepoint has so far failed to dent — let alone crack — the edifice of the London Stock Exchange.

Yesterday's results show a miserly 0.042 per cent share of the market. This figure is less impressive still given that it was carved from a small number of deals, worth an average of £107,000 each.

Tradepoint's decision to pitch itself at the market heavyweights is proving to be its undoing.

Its computer network of fully electronic, anonymous trading is not appreciated by dealers who still rely on their own network of personal contacts to reach separately agreed prices.

But the Stock Exchange should not feel smug. Tradepoint is test-driving the system which the Exchange itself will introduce to all FT-SE 100 stocks by next August. If this is grinding against City culture, this bodes ill for its carefully orchestrated modernisation.

Tradepoint has got there first, and is paying the price for innovation. But when the Exchange catches up, life should get better, not worse, for the newcomer. Its cost base is still a fraction of the Exchange's, it takes a smaller cut in the shares, and it will be the first to put its flag on overseas investors.

Tradepoint's system is ahead of its time and the City has little desire to catch up. But once the culture shock is absorbed, its advantages should show through.

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Sep	965-956	Dec	1062-1058
Dec	983-982	Mar	1073-1072
Mar	1007-1005	May	1082-1080
May	1020-1017	Jul	1092-1086
Jul	1035-1033		
Sep	1049-1046		Volume: 3254

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Sep	1580-1573	May	1380-1375
Nov	1483-1482	Jul	1372-1365
Jan	1425-1424	Sep	1375-1365
Mar	1393-1390		Volume: 4402

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Aug	332.0-29.3
Spot: 344.6		Oct	324.7-22.0
Dec	330.5-29.0	Dec	327.0-22.9
Mar	329.5-29.0	Mar	327.0-24.1
May	329.5-28.5		Volume: 1942

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on September 19

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	110.47	116.88	98.33
(+/-)	-2.48	-3.64	-0.29
Eng/Wales:	110.48	116.70	98.02
(+/-)	-2.47	-3.97	-0.22
(%)	-8.0	-23.0	-12.0
Scotland:	107.72	117.80	99.43
(+/-)	n/c	-1.81	-2.49
(%)	n/c	-10.0	+27.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	21.85	-0.30
Brent 15 day (Nov)	21.80	-0.20
Brent 15 day (Dec)	21.40	-0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Nov)	22.95	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Dec)	22.50	-0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	206 (-4)	208 (-4)
Gasoil EEC	222 (-3)	223 (-3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	115 (+1)	117 (+1)
Naphtha	207 (+1)	209 (+2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Oct	213.75-14.00	Jan	196.50-96.75
Nov	206.75 BID	Feb	190.00-90.25
Dec	201.75-02.00		Vol: 15045

BRENT (6.00pm)

Nov	21.82-21.83	Feb	20.32 BID
Dec	21.37 BID	Mar	19.83-19.85
Jan	20.82-20.88		Vol: 29227

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Sep	105.75	Sep	101.50
Nov	107.10	Nov	103.00
Jan	108.85	Jan	104.50
Mar	110.65	Mar	106.00
May	112.65	May	107.50
	Volume: 383		Volume: 85

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Nov	unq	36.5
Mar		76.0
Apr	70.0	70.5
		Volume: 22

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)

Oct 88.75-89.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Sep 96	1003	998	1003
Oct 96	1138	1125	1130
Nov 96	1215	1200	1207
Jan 97	1240	1230	1231
Vol: 260 lots		Open interest: 4084	

Index 1001 -2

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1916.0-1917.0	1929.0-1930.0	2019625
Lead ($/tonne)	784.00-784.50	784.00-784.50	202775
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1008.5-1009.0	1035.0-1036.0	359080
Tin ($/tonne)	6053.0-6054.0	6105.0-6110.0	25000
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1377.0-1377.5	1411.0-1411.5	1458450
Nickel ($/tonne)	7265.0-7270.0	7380.0-7385.0	71352

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Puts Oct	Puts Jan	Puts Apr
Alld Dom	460	11	21½	29½	8	23½	29
(*462)	500	0½	7	15	38	52	55½
ASDA	100	5½	8½	12	2½	4	5
(*103½)	110	1	3½	6½	8	9	10
Boots	600	44½	54	66½	0½	9½	13½
(*641½)	650	9½	23	36	15	29	34
Br Airways	500	49½	56	67½	0	6½	10
(*547)	550	10	23	37	10½	23½	28½
BP	600	47	56	63	1	7½	14
(*644)	650	9	21½	35	14	30	33½
Br Steel	180	15½	19	22½	0½	5	7
(*194½)	200	3	8	12	8	14½	16½
C & W	420	37	45½	57	1½	8½	13½
(*454½)	460	8½	21	34	14	24½	30
CU	600	13	33	41½	10½	21½	39
(*600)	650	1	12	20½	50	53½	71
ICI	800	44½	66	76½	4	14½	26½
(*838)	850	13	37	47½	22½	36	50
Land Sec	700	13	25½	37	8	21½	25½
(*702)	750	0½	8½	16	48	54	57
M & S	500	16	27	37½	5½	14	18½
(*508½)	550	0½	7½	15	41½	45½	48
Nat West	650	31½	52	61	5	17½	29½
(*674)	700	6	25½	35	30	41½	57½
Safeway plc	300	23½	30	36½	1	6½	11
(*321½)	330	4½	12½	20½	12½	20½	25
Sainsbury	360	14	22	30	3½	10½	14½
(*369)	390	1½	8½	15½	21½	28	31
Shell	950	43½	56	69½	4½	14½	27
(*993)	1000	6	27½	40½	28½	37	51
Smkl Bch	736	34½	—	—	6	—	—
(*762½)	785	9½	—	—	21	—	—
Storehse	300	12	—	—	3	—	—
(*308)	330	1	—	—	22	—	—
Trafalgar	50	1	—	—	0½	—	—
(*50)	60	0	—	—	10	—	—
Zeneca	1550	60	103½	136½	27½	54½	79
(*1575)	1600	37	82	113	52½	78½	101½
Series		Nov	Jan	Apr	Nov	Jan	Apr
BAT Ind	460	21	31	39	17	21	34
(*462½)	500	6½	14½	22½	43	44½	58
Vodafone	230	12	15½	21½	7	11	13½
(*231)	240	4	7½	13	19½	22½	25½
Series		Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
Grnd Met	460	28	37	43	6½	18	21
(*477)	500	7½	17½	24	27	40	42½
Ladbroke	200	11½	17½	20½	5	7½	11½
(*208½)	220	2½	8½	11½	16½	19	22½
Utd Bisc	200	10½	17	18½	5½	9½	13½
(*206)	220	3	8½	10	19	21½	26

Series		Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Puts Oct	Puts Jan	Puts Apr
BAA	500	9½	23	32½	9½	20	24
(*500)	550	0	6	13	50	54	56½
Thames W	550	14	25	38	7½	21½	29
(*553½)	600	1	7½	18	46½	56	61½
Series		Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
BTR	280	8	15	18½	9½	13	17
(*282½)	300	2½	7	10	23½	25½	28
Br Aero	1050	35	61½	75	31½	44	54½
(*1055½)	1100	15	38½	52	61½	72	82
Br Telcm	360	20	26½	30½	6	13	16½
(*372½)	390	5½	11½	16½	21½	29½	32
Cadbury	500	23½	39	43	10½	17	27
(*508½)	550	5	16½	20	43	46½	56
Guinness	460	15½	27½	33½	13	18	25½
(*465)	500	3	11	16½	41	43	50½
GEC	390	17½	26	33½	8	15	17½
(*397)	420	5	12	19	25½	31½	34
Hanson	160	7	10½	—	5½	9	—
(*160)	180	1	4	—	20	22½	—
LASMO	200	9½	15½	19	5	8	10½
(*202½)	220	2½	7	10½	18	20	21½
LucasVarity	240	17	25	29½	6½	10½	14
(*249½)	260	7	15	19½	16	20½	23½
Pilkingtn	180	15½	20	24½	2½	5½	7½
(*192)	200	4½	10	14	13	15½	17
Prudential	420	26½	37½	43½	6½	12½	21
(*442½)	460	8	17½	23½	27½	33	42½
Redland	420	38	48½	56	4½	10	16
(*455½)	460	12½	25	33	21	26½	34½
R-Royce	220	19	25½	29½	3	7	10
(*236)	240	7	14	18½	12	15½	19
Tesco	300	11	19½	24	9½	14½	20
(*302½)	330	2½	8	12	31½	34	39
Williams	330	28½	—	—	2½	—	—
(*358½)	360	8	—	—	14	—	—

FT-SE INDEX (*3963½)

	3850	3900	3950	4000	4050	4100
Calls						
Sep	113½	63½	13½	0	0	0
Oct	134	91½	55	28	11½	3½
Nov	157	118½	85½	57½	34½	18½
Dec	189	151	116½	86½	61	42
Jun	—	240½	—	187½	—	138
Puts						
Sep	0	0	0	36½	86½	136½
Oct	12	19½	33½	57	91½	136½
Nov	25	36	53	76	105	141½
Dec	43	56	75½	95	121	153½
Jun	—	137½	—	182½	—	232

Series		Calls Dec	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Dec	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Abby Nat	600	43½	56½	62	13½	31	31½
(*621½)	650	18	31	37½	38½	57½	57½
Amstrad	140	15½	—	—	7	—	—
(*146½)	160	7	—	—	18	—	—
Barclays	900	72½	90½	99	13	31	36½
(*946)	950	42	60½	70	32	53	59
Blue Circ	360	39	44½	50	4½	7½	12
(*389½)	390	18½	26	31½	14	18	24½
Br Gas	200	7½	13	15½	9½	12½	18½
(*202½)	220	2	6	8	25	26½	32
Dixons	550	33	47½	59½	17	25	30½
(*560½)	600	11	25	36	46	52½	57½
Forte	343	—	—	—	0	—	—
(*n/a)	375	—	—	—	0	—	—
Tarmac	90	8½	10	11½	4	4½	6½
(*95½)	100	3½	5½	7	9½	10	12
Hillsdown	180	8	12	13½	8½	10½	15½
(*180½)	200	2	4½	6	23½	23½	29
Lonrho	160	17½	20	22½	2½	5	6½
(*173)	180	6	9	12	11	14½	16
Sears	90	7	—	—	2½	—	—
(*94½)	100	2½	—	—	8	—	—
Thorn EMI	1700	68½	—	—	901	—	—
(*1745)	1800	0	—	—	977½	—	—
Tomkins	260	21	25½	29½	6	10	12
(*272½)	280	9½	14½	19	15	19	21½
Lloyds TSB	360	29½	36½	40	8	17	17
(*378)	390	13	20½	24½	21½	32½	32
Series		Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Glaxo W	950	29½	54½	73½	15½	32	49
(*956½)	1000	6½	31	49½	42	59	76
HSBC	1200	39	79	97	17½	39½	65
(*1217)	1250	16	53	72½	44½	64½	92
Reuter	750	22	50	65½	13	27	42
(*758)	800	4½	26½	42	45	58	69
Series		Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Royal & Sun	394	9½	21	26½	10½	19½	30½
(*397)	431	0½	8	12½	41	45	55
Series		Oct	Feb	May	Oct	Feb	May
Kingfishr	650	16	41½	51½	15½	29½	40
(*650)	700	1½	20	29	51	59	68½
Series		Oct	Dec	Mar	Oct	Dec	Mar
Unilever	1350	52	66	93	5	17½	27
(*1392½)	1400	18	35	62½	22	38	48
Series		Dec	Apr	Jul	Dec	Apr	Jul
Natl Pwr	360	40½	48	55	5	9½	11
(*394)	400	14½	24	—	19½	25	—
Scot Pwr	294	30½	36½	—	6½	12	—
(*309½)	323	6	12½	—	20½	27½	—

September 20, 1996 Tot: 83178 Call: 54777 Put: 28401 FT-SE Call: 36153 Put: 19872

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Sep 96	3987.0	4000.0	3976.0	3978.0	5955
Previous open interest: 66246	Dec 96	4013.0	4020.0	3987.0	3996.0	15083
FT-SE 250	Sep 96	4420.0	4420.0	4420.0	4416.0	500
Previous open interest: 4147	Dec 96	4455.0	4457.0	4455.0	4460.0	535
Three Month Sterling	Dec 96	94.09	94.09	94.05	94.06	13386
Previous open interest: 417758	Mar 97	93.91	93.92	93.88	93.88	12814
	Jun 97	93.61	93.62	93.56	93.57	9452
Three Mth Euro Yen	Mar 97	99.17	99.18	99.17	99.18	140
	Jun 97				98.99	0
Three Mth Euro DM	Dec 96	96.81	96.82	96.80	96.81	23078
Previous open interest: 993777	Mar 97	96.71	96.72	96.70	96.71	15720
Long Gilt	Sep 96	108-10	108-13	108-10	108-10	2470
Previous open interest: 129671	Dec 96	107-18	107-26	107-18	107-20	37355
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 96	122.12	122.12	122.05	122.10	1260
	Mar 97	121.11	121.11	121.11	121.10	5
German Gov Bd Bund	Dec 96	98.12	98.33	98.09	98.25	122839
Previous open interest: 228333	Mar 97	97.22	97.23	97.21	97.29	148
Three month ECU	Dec 96	95.77	95.82	95.77	95.81	1084
Previous open interest: 20710	Mar 97	95.77	95.79	95.77	95.78	319
Euro Swiss Franc	Dec 96	98.07	98.19	98.07	98.15	10601
Previous open interest: 76368	Mar 97	97.96	98.10	97.96	98.04	6448
Italian Govmt Bond	Dec 96	118.20	119.10	118.20	118.75	65243
Previous open interest: 71046	Mar 97				118.05	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5¾ Finance Hse 6

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5¾ Low 5½ Week fixed: 5¹¹⁄₁₆

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5²¹⁄₃₂ ; 3 mth 5¹¹⁄₁₆ . Sell: 2 mth 5¹⁹⁄₃₂ ; 3 mth: 5¹⁹⁄₃₂ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5¹¹⁄₁₆-5⅝	5¹¹⁄₁₆-5⅝	5¹¹⁄₁₆-5⅝	5¹¹⁄₁₆-5⅝	
Sterling Money Rates:	5²⁵⁄₃₂-5²¹⁄₃₂	5¹³⁄₁₆-5¾	5¹³⁄₁₆-5¾	5¹⁵⁄₁₆-5⁷⁄₈	6⅛-6¼
Interbank:	5²⁵⁄₃₂-5²³⁄₃₂	5¹¹⁄₁₆-5¾	5¹¹⁄₁₆-5¾	5¹⁵⁄₁₆-5²⁷⁄₃₂	6⅛-6¼

Overnight: open 5¾, close 5¾ .

Local Authority Deps:	5¹¹⁄₁₆	n/a	5¾	5¹³⁄₁₆	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	5²³⁄₃₂-5²¹⁄₃₂	5²³⁄₃₂-5²³⁄₃₂	5²⁵⁄₃₂-5²³⁄₃₂	5¹⁵⁄₁₆-5⅞	6⅛-5³¹⁄₃₂
Dollar CDs:	5.44	n/a	5.53	5.74	6.05
Building Society CDs:	5²³⁄₃₂-5²³⁄₃₂	5¹¹⁄₁₆-5¾	5¹³⁄₁₆-5¾	5⅞-5¾	6⅛-6

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £1,907m allotted: £400m: Bids: £98.615% received: 60%; Last week: £98.625% received: 81%; Avge rate: £5.5432% last wk £5.5142%; Next week: £400m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅜-4¹⁵⁄₁₆	5⅜-5¼	5⅝-5½	5¹³⁄₁₆-5¹¹⁄₁₆	5-4
Deutschemark:	3-2¾	3¹⁄₁₆-2⅞	3¹⁄₁₆-2¹⁵⁄₁₆	3⅛-3	3½-2½
French Franc:	3½-3¼	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	4-3
Swiss Franc:	1⁵⁄₁₆-1³⁄₁₆	1⁵⁄₁₆-1¼	1⁷⁄₁₆-1⁵⁄₁₆	1⁹⁄₁₆-1⁷⁄₁₆	2-1
Yen:	⁷⁄₁₆-⁵⁄₁₆	½-⅜	⁹⁄₁₆-⁷⁄₁₆	⅝-½	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $382.40-382.70 **Close:** $381.50-382.00 **High:** $382.45-382.95
Low: $380.05-380.55 **AM:** $382.50 **PM:** $381.75

Krugerrand: $380.75-383.75 (£244.75-246.75)

Platinum: $387.25 (£248.95) **Silver:** $4.89 (£3.145) **Palladium:** $119.50 (£76.80)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Sept 20	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.6365-2.6430	2.6396-2.6425	⅛-⅛pr	2-1¾pr
Brussels	48.410-48.550	48.460-48.547	13-9pr	36-29pr
Copenhagen	9.0470-9.0720	9.0527-9.0608	1⅛-1⅛pr	5-4pr
Dublin	0.9696-0.9712	0.9696-0.9710	2pr-2ds	2pr-4ds
Frankfurt	2.3525-2.3569	2.3546-2.3569	⅛-⅛pr	⅜-⅜pr
Lisbon	239.58-240.42	240.05-240.29	⅛-⅛ds	⅜-1ds
Madrid	197.84-198.33	198.16-198.33	19-34ds	63-88ds
Milan	2365.3-2373.4	2369.5-2371.7	4-6ds	14-16ds
Montreal	2.1255-2.1311	2.1271-2.1290	0.33-0.28pr	0.68-0.60pr
New York	1.5522-1.5560	1.5547-1.5555	0.047-0.027pr	0.082-0.052pr
Oslo	10.050-10.077	10.061-10.070	⅛-⅛pr	⅜-⅛pr
Paris	7.9690-7.9920	7.9814-7.9876	1½-1⅛pr	4¼-4⅛pr
Stockholm	10.260-10.299	10.282-10.299	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Tokyo	170.49-171.06	170.64-170.84	⅛-⅛pr	2⅜-2⅛pr
Vienna	16.590-16.592	16.566-16.585	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-⅛pr
Zurich	1.9266-1.9329	1.9269-1.9294	⅛-⅛pr	2-1⅛pr

Source: Extel *Premium = pr. Discount = ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2626-1.2634
Austria	10.66-10.67
Belgium (Com)	31.19-31.20
Canada	1.3686-1.3691
Denmark	5.8255-5.8275
France	5.1335-5.1355
Germany	1.5155-1.5158
Hong Kong	7.7323-7.7333
Ireland	1.6010-1.6030
Italy	1523.68-1524.18
Japan	109.81-109.86
Malaysia	2.5005-2.5015
Netherlands	1.6989-1.6994
Norway	6.4721-6.4759
Portugal	154.50-154.60
Singapore	1.4078-1.4088
Spain	127.42-127.51
Sweden	6.6050-6.6150
Switzerland	1.2403-1.2408

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5551-1.5577
Australia dollar	1.9635-1.9660
Bahrain dinar	0.5795-0.5915
Brazil real*	1.5815-1.5857
China yuan	n/a
Cyprus pound	0.7165-0.7265
Finland markka	6.9850-7.1010
Greece drachma	370.5-377.5
Hong Kong dollar	12.0214-12.0307
India rupee	55.08-56.04
Indonesia rupiah	3570.0-3638.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4605-0.4705
Malaysia ringgit	3.8880-3.8921
New Zealand dollar	2.2205-2.2240
Pakistan rupee	56.80 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.5950-5.7190
Singapore dollar	2.1886-2.1914
S Africa rand (com)	6.9330-7.0350
U A E dirham	5.6450-5.7690

Barclays Bank GTS • Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	1,500	Marks Spr	5,100
ASDA Gp	12,000	NatWst Bk	4,900
Abbey Nt	3,300	Nat Grid	3,200
Allied Dom	2,400	Nat Power	6,100
Argos	3,400	Next	1,200
AB Foods	1,000	Orange	4,500
BAA	4,400	P & O	3,000
BAT Inds	12,000	Pearson	851
BOC	1,300	Pilkington	5,400
BP	10,600	PowerGen	3,100
BSkyB	2,600	Prudential	7,500
BTR	15,800	RMC	532
BT	12,700	RTZ	1,800
Bk of Scl	4,400	Railtrack	5,600
Barclays	4,300	Rank Org	3,300
Bass	2,300	Reckitt Col	1,200
Blue Circle	1,700	Redland	2,800
Boots	3,100	Reed Intl	1,800
BAe	1,200	Rentokil	17,800
BA	5,500	Reuters	2,800
Brit Gas	6,900	Rolls Royce	4,700
Brit Steel	7,200	Royal & Sun	4,000
Burmah Cstl	394	Royal Bk Scl	2,400
Burton	3,700	Safeway	1,700
Cable Wire	6,500	Sainsbury	3,200
Cadbury	2,100	Schroders	84
Carlton Cms	1,500	Scot & New	1,200
Cm Union	1,200	Scot Power	3,800
Courtaulds	4,100	Svrn Trent	1,500
Dixons	1,800	Shell Trans	12,200
EMI	1,300	Siebe	849
Enterpr Oil	738	SmKl Bch	3,400
GKN	651	Smith Nph	6,300
GRE	4,400	Smiths Inds	353
GUS	1,800	Sthern Elec	755
Gen Acc	1,800	Std Chartd	2,400
Gen Elec	5,200	TI Gp	550
Glaxo Well	6,600	Tate & Lyle	725
Granada	2,100	Tesco	6,700
Grand Met	7,500	Thames W	953
Guinness	8,400	Thorn	7,500
HSBC	1,800	Tomkins	3,200
Hanson	15,700	Unilever	3,700
ICI	1,300	Utd Utilities	1,100
Kingfisher	1,300	Utd News	1,800
LASMO	2,200	Vodafone	10,300
Ladbroke	8,400	Whitbread	1,600
Land Secs	1,500	Wllms Hld	3,300
Legal & Gn	7,100	Wolseley	1,400
Lloyds TSB	31,300	Zeneca	1,800

WALL STREET

	Sep 20 midday	Sep 19 close
AMP Inc	39	38½
AMR Corp	82½	81
ASA	38½	39½
AT & T	57	57½
Abbott Labs	48	48½
Advanced Micro	14½	14½
Aetna Life	67½	67½
Ahmanson (HF)	26	26
Air Prod & Chem	57½	57½
AirTouch Comm	28½	28½
Alberto-Culver B	42	41½
Albertson's	41½	41½
Alcan Aluminum	30½	30½
Alco Standard	47½	47
Allied Signal	62½	61½
Alum Co of Am	61	61½
Amax Gold Inc	5½	5½
Amerada Hess	53½	53½
Amer Brands	43½	43½
Amer El Power	41½	41½
Amer Express	45½	44½
Amer Genl Corp	38½	37½
Amer Home Pr	63½	62½
Amer Intl	97½	97½
Amer Stores	39½	39½
Amer Standard	34½	34½
Ameritech	53½	52½
Amoco	70½	69½
Anheuser-Busch	39½	39½
Apple Computer	23½	23½
Archer Daniels	18½	18½
Armco	4½	4½
Armstrng Wrld	62½	62½
Asarco	26½	26½
Atl Richfield	125½	125½
Auto Data Pro	44½	44½
Avery Dennison	54½	54½
Avon Products	49½	49½
Baker Hughes	30	29½
Baltim Gas & El	26½	25½
Banc One	40	40
BankAmerica	81½	81½
Bank of NY	29½	29½
Bankers Tr NY	80	80½
Barnett Banks	33½	32½
Bausch & Lomb	36½	36½
Baxter Intl	43½	43½
Becton Dicknsn	43½	43½
Bell Atlantic	58½	57½
Bell Industries	15½	15½
BellSouth	37½	37½
Black & Decker	40½	40½
Block (H&R)	29½	28½
Boeing	93½	92½
Boise Cascade	32½	32½
Bristol Myrs Sq	95	95
Browning Ferris	24½	24½
Brunswick	23½	23½
Burlingtn Nthn	84½	83½
CMS Energy Corp	29½	29½
CNA Financial	98½	98½
CPC Intl	73½	73½
CSX	52	51½
Campbell Soup	78½	79½
Can Pacific	23	23
Carolina Pwr	34½	34½
Caterpillar	75½	74½
Central & SW	25½	25½
Champion Intl	46½	46½
Chase Manhat	78	77½
Chevron Corp	63½	61½
Chrysler	28½	28½
Chubb Corp	49½	44½
Cigna Corp	119½	117½
Citicorp	87½	87½
Clorox	96	96½
Coastal Corp	41½	40½
Coca Cola	51½	52½
Coca Cola Ent	40½	40½
Colgate-Palmolive	87½	87
Columbia Gas	56½	55½
ColumbiaHCA	57½	56½
Compaq Comp	64½	64
Comp Ass Int	61	60½
Conagra	45½	45½
Conrail	73½	72½
Cons Edison	28½	28½
Cons Nat Gas	53½	53½
Cooper Inds	41½	41½
Corestates	41½	41½
Corning Inc	38	38½
Crown Cork	46	46
Dana Corp	30½	30½
Dayton Hudson	35	35½
Deere	41½	41½
Delta Air Lines	72½	70½
Deluxe Corp	37½	37½
Digital Equip	41½	41½
Dillard Dept St	33½	33½
Disney (Walt)	62½	63½
Dominion Res	37½	37½
Donelley (RR)	33½	33½
Dover Corp	45½	45½
Dow Chemical	82½	82
Dow Jones	38½	38½
Dresser	29½	29½
Duke Power	47½	47½
Dun & Bradstreet	59½	59½
Du Pont	86½	86½
Eastman Chem	55½	56½

	Sep 20 midday	Sep 19 close
Eastman Kodak	75½	75½
Eaton Corp	59½	58½
Edison Int	18	18
Emerson Elec	88½	88½
Engelhard Corp	21½	21½
Enron Corp	40½	40½
Entergy	27½	27
Ethyl Corp	8½	8½
Exxon	87½	85½
FMC Corp	66½	66
FPL Group	44½	44
Federal Express	77½	74½
Fed Nat Mtge	34	33½
First Bk Sys	67½	67
First Union Rlty	6½	6½
Fleet Finl Grp	43½	42½
Fluor Corp	63½	62½
Ford Motor	31½	31½
GTE Corp	39½	39½
Gannett	67½	66½
Gap Inc Del	30½	30½
Gen Dynamics	69½	64½
Gen Electric	88½	87½
Gen Mills	56½	56½
Gen Motors	48½	48½
Gen Reinsurance	143½	143½
Gen Signal	41½	41½
Genuine Parts	43	43½
Georgia Pac	78½	78
Gillette	67½	67½
Glaxo Welc ADR	29½	29½
Goodrich (BF)	41½	40½
Goodyear Tire	47½	47½
Grace (WAR)	74½	73½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	26½	25½
Great Wstn Fin	24½	24½
Halliburton	52½	51½
Harcourt General	53½	53½
Heinz (HJ)	33	33
Hercules	55½	56½
Hershey Foods	47½	46½
Hewlett Packard	48½	48½
Hilton Hotels	107½	106½
Home Depot	57½	57
Homestake Mng	15½	15½
Honeywell	63½	64
Household Intl	81	80½
Houston Inds	22½	22½
Humana	20½	20½
ITT Corp	45½	45½
Illinois Tool	73½	73½
Illinova	26½	26½
INCO	31½	31½
Ingersoll Rand	45½	44½
Inland Steel	17½	17½
Intel Corp	98	97
IBM	123½	123½
Intl Flav & FF	44½	44½
Intl Paper	43½	44
James River Va	27½	26½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	50½	50
Kellogg	69½	69½
Kerr-McGee	60½	59½
Kimberly-Clark	84½	83½
Kmart	10	9½
Knight-Ridder	37	36½
Lilly (Eli)	64½	63½
Limited Inc	19½	19½
Lincoln Nat	45½	44½
Litton	47	47½
Liz Claiborne	35½	35½
Lockheed Martin	89	87½
Louisiana Pac	23½	23½
MCI Comm	27½	27½
Marriott Int	55½	55½
Marsh & McLnn	95½	95½
Masco Corp	29½	29
May Dept St	47½	47½
Maytag Corp	20½	20½
McDonalds	47½	47½
McDonnell D	51½	50½
McGraw Hill	42½	42½
Mead Corp	60	60½
Medtronic	60½	61½
Mellon Bk	58½	57½
Melville Corp	44½	44½
Merck Inc	68½	68½
Merrill Lynch	65	64½
Microsoft	138½	137½
Minnesota Mine	70	70½
Mobil Corp	119½	118½
Monsanto	34½	34
Morgan (JP)	89½	90
Motorola Inc	51½	51½
Natl Semi	19½	19½
Natl Service Ind	35½	35½
Navistar Int	9½	9
NY Times A	32½	32½
Newmont Mng	49½	50½
Niag Mohawk	8½	8½
Nike B	125	124½
NL Industries	10	10
Noram Energy	14½	14½
Nordstrom	39½	38½
Norfolk Sthn	89½	89½
Nthn State Pwr	47½	47
Norwest Corp	39½	40
Nynex Corp	43½	43½
Occidental Pet	23½	23½
Ohio Edison	19½	19½

	Sep 20 midday	Sep 19 close
Oracle	43½	43½
Oryx Energy Co	17½	17½
Overseas Ship	16½	16½
Owens Corning	37½	37½
PHH Corp	29½	28½
PPG Industries	53½	52½
PNC Bank	33½	33½
PP&L Res	22½	22½
Paccar Inc	47½	47½
Pacificorp	21	21
Pac Enterprises	30½	30½
Pac Gas & Elect	21½	21½
Pac Telesis	34½	33½
Pall Corp	27½	27½
Parker Hannifin	41½	41½
Peco Energy	24½	24½
Penney (JC)	56½	55½
Pennzoil	53½	53½
Pepsico	30½	30
Pfizer	75½	75½
Pharm & Upjhn	42½	42½
Phelps Dodge	61½	61½
Philip Morris	93½	93½
Phillips Pet	42½	42½
Pitney Bowes	52½	52½
Polaroid	44½	44½
PriceCostco	19½	20½
Procter & Gmbl	92½	91½
Providian	43½	43½
Pub Serv E & G	27½	27½
Quaker Oats	35½	35½
Ralston Purina	67½	67½
Raychem Corp	69½	69½
Raytheon	52½	52½
Reebok Intl	34½	34
Reynolds Metals	52½	53½
Rockwell Intl	54½	54½
Rohm & Haas	65½	65½
Royal Dutch	155½	154½
Rubbermaid	24½	24½
SBC Comms	48½	48½
Safeco Corp	34½	34½
St Paul's Cos	54½	54½
Salomon Inc	46½	46
Sara Lee Corp	33½	33½
Schering Plough	59½	59½
Schlumberger	84½	84
Seagram	35½	34½
Sears Roebuck	45½	45½
Shell Trans	92½	92½
Sherwin Wllms	45½	45½
Skyline Corp	27½	27½
Snap-On-Tools	32½	32½
Southern Co	22½	21½
Sprint Corp	41½	39½
Stanley Works	28½	28½
Sun Company	23	23
Sun Microsys	62	61½
Suntrust	40½	40
Supervalu	28½	28½
Sysco Corp	34	34
TRW Inc	97½	97½
TCC Inds	1½	1½
Tandem Comp	12½	12½
Tandy Corp	43	43
Temple Inland	51½	51½
Tenneco	51½	51
Texaco	97½	94½
Texas Inst	53½	52½
Texas Utilities	41	41½
Textron	83½	82½
Time Warner	37½	37½
Times-Mirror A	44½	44½
Timken	38½	38½
Torchmark	45	44½
Toys R Us	29½	29½
Transamerica	71½	71½
Travelers	47½	47
Tribune	74½	73½
Tyco Int	44½	44½
UST Inc	30½	30½
UAL	48½	48
US Inds	29½	26½
US West Comm	30	29½
USX Marathon	21½	22
Unicom	25½	24½
Unilever NV	159½	159½
Union Camp	50½	50½
Union Carbide	45½	44½
Union Pacific	73½	74
Unisys Corp	6½	6
USAIR Group	17½	17½
USF&G Corp	18½	17½
US Life	30	30
United Tech	119½	118½
Unocal Corp	39½	39½
VF Corp	61½	60½
WMX Tech	32½	32½
Wal-Mart Stores	27½	26½
Warner-Lambert	62½	62½
Wells Fargo	257½	256
Westinghouse El	18½	18½
Weyerhaeuser	46½	46½
Whirlpool	51½	51½
Whitman	22½	22½
Winn Dixie	37½	35
Woolworth	21½	21½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	57½	57½
Xerox	54½	52½
Yellow Corp	13½	13

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TRUST WATCH 35

Can you be a Euro winner like Cliff Richard?

WEEKEND MONEY

GURU'S GEMS 37

George Soros's words of wisdom on wealth creation

Pensions scandal unresolved

Compensation has yet to be paid to most victims,

Sara McConnell and **Adam Jones** report

The pressure on life companies to settle the long-running saga of mis-sold pensions increased last week, after moves by unions and the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), a consumer watchdog. Solicitors acting for victims of the scandal have been inundated with fresh requests for help after public sector unions renewed their calls to members to seek redress in the long-running saga.

The OFT this week launched an inquiry into the selling and regulation of personal pensions. While the OFT says the inquiry is looking at future strategy, some observers say it will embarass the Personal Investment Authority, which has been accused of dragging its feet over its official review of pension mis-selling.

In addition, Ringrose Wharton, representing the Royal College of Nursing, Unison and GMB, says the firm has issued 100 questionnaires in the past two weeks in response to inquiries from union members. The firm has an estimated 400 claimants on its books and has issued 150 writs against insurance companies.

Nearly three years after the issue was first brought to the public's attention, very few of the estimated two million victims have been compensated for losses sustained when they were wrongly advised by insurance companies and advisers to transfer their funds out of generous company pension schemes and into personal pensions that represented a greater risk and almost certainly poorer value for money. Attempts to get redress have run into difficulties:

☐ An industry-wide review of mis-sold pensions, which started in July 1994, has failed to meet its first two deadlines on investigating and compensating priority cases. Priority cases include those who have already retired, men over 50 and women over 45, and those who opted out of company schemes run by their existing employer in favour of a personal pension.

Unions, claimants and their solicitors accuse the industry of deliberately spinning out the review process to avoid having to pay up.

A TUC survey last month found that nearly half the respondents had not yet received the initial review questionnaire from the insurance company or agent that sold them the pension. By April, only 7,000 people had received compensation.

The Personal Investment Authority, monitoring the review, admitted this week that figures next month will confirm that payouts have been made to only a small number of people. It blamed the delay on problems with life company computers and industry infighting.

☐ The Association of British Insurers (ABI) claims delays that are not down to insurance companies but to problems in getting the necessary information both from schemes and from people claiming redress. Insurance companies need details from occupational schemes on the levels of benefits claimants would have got if they had stayed in their employer's schemes before they can work out compensation. But some public service schemes either cannot legally give out information or want to be paid for doing so.

Others cannot reinstate people without changing their rules. Public service schemes include those for health service workers, local and central government and teachers. Regulators admit this will have caused delays for people who would otherwise have been able to be reinstated in their employer's scheme.

☐ It has taken until this year for insurers and the Government Actuary to agree a basis for working out the cost of reinstating people in public service schemes.

Unions, impatient with review delays, are pressing forward with separate court action in spite of pressure from pension providers to stay within the review. Unison announced this month that it was taking legal action "following hundreds of complaints from distraught members" because it was "dissatisfied with the progress made by the life and pensions industry". The RCN and GMB had previously announced their intention to take legal action.

The first 46 cases will be heard this December in Bristol. The unions hope that this will set the pace for substantial compensation.

Bill Day, pensions officer of the GMB, said: "We are hopeful the cases will set down standards for tens of thousands of pounds worth of compensation, which should alert people that they may be in line for a payout."

But even when people receive compensation, they have no way of knowing if the payout is fair, says Robert Wharton of Ringrose Wharton. Some insurers are refusing to pay the extra cost of having the payout independently checked as part of their claim.

The pensions mis-selling inquiry is all at sea, with victims yet to be compensated and the sharks still at large

High cost of bad advice

Putting your money in the wrong personal pension can cut your final pension fund by more than £60,000 over 15 years, a new survey out next month will show (Sara McConnell writes). High charges and/or poor fund performance dramatically reduce payouts from the worst performers, according to *Money Management*, the specialist magazine.

Many of those wrongly advised to transfer or opt out of their employer's pension scheme into personal pensions will be in plans that have performed indifferently or inconsistently, the survey results show.

Two months ago, the TUC published a damning report naming the Prudential, Pearl, Legal & General and TSB as among those active in pension mis-selling. Of these companies, only the Pearl ranks among the best with profits policies (for monthly premiums). None appears in *Money Management*'s "best buy" unit linked pensions categories. Five and four star "best buys" are those companies denoting consistently above average performance and include Equitable Life, Norwich Union, Allied Dunbar, Eagle Star and Scottish Equitable.

Someone paying £200 a month into the best performing with-profits fund, Scottish Mutual, will build up a fund of £139,818 after 15 years. The same money going into the worst with-profits performer, Britannia Life, would get just £82,151, a difference of £57,667. On the unit linked side, Sun Life of Canada's managed fund would produce £104,809 after 15 years, while Merchant Investors, would produce just £76,924. The same person investing a single lump sum of £10,000 would get £97,646 from the Pearl's with profits fund after 15 years but only £35,340 from Britannia Life. The £10,000 in a managed fund would turn into £96,633 with the Pearl but only £54,044 with Skandia.

Money Management is available from September 23 at £4.95.

Weekend Money
is edited by
Anne Ashworth

King's crowning glory

John King: 121 letters

The advertisement in the local paper held out the prospects of big money for people transferring frozen pensions from previous employers into personal pensions (Sara McConnell writes). John King, then 59, responded and was persuaded by the firm of independent financial advisers that had placed the advertisement to transfer his frozen company pension of more than £1,100 into a personal pension.

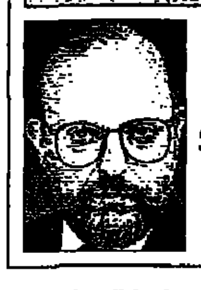
By last year, he realised he had made a mistake. He refused to accept the adviser's offer of compensation. He took his case to the Personal Investment Authority, the Securities and Investments Board and his MP.

Mr King's hopes of a peaceful retirement were temporarily dashed as he fought a confusion of regulators. "Letters came from different addresses, you waited for six weeks with no reply, replies were conflicting and there was a general lack of cohesion and co-ordination," he says. Exactly 121 letters later, his case was taken in hand by the PIA ombudsman, who ruled that Mr King should have his pension restored to its original value.

Strangely, Mr King's case appears to have slipped through the pensions mis-selling review net, although his case would have qualified as a priority under the scheme rules. The PIA declined to comment or suggest reasons why this might have been. The resolution of his case, in less than a year, was decidedly slick compared with the pensions review.

Cash can be a gamble too

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Times are tough for top fund managers. Hard on the unfolding Morgan Grenfell debacle, PDFM, better known as Phillips & Drew Fund Managers, is on the rack. Over the past 20 months, Tony Dye, its investment chief, has gradually put more of the £50 billion pension funds the group manages into cash and index-linked gilt-edged stocks: about 20 per cent in all. He thinks equity markets do not offer good value. As share prices in New York and London continue to boom intermittently, big clients are starting to complain. Forget long-term strategy, said one. Mr Dye has six months to perform. For this to happen, there has to be a crash.

PDFM's moderate caution will hardly shock private investors. Most of us are perennially 20 per cent liquid, because we need access to cash, because of native prudence or, for many of us, through sheer indolence. Having a fifth of a fund in cash is not the same as being totally liquid, but the issues are much the same.

Selling a boom can make speculators rich. In 1907, Shinnosuke Nomura secured the fortunes of his mighty Japanese house by selling short near the top of a rise, though he only just made it to the ensuing crash. Such tactics rarely pay for long-term investors, because it is harder to spot the buying point after a downtrend than the top of a boom.

The worst modern UK bear market started in summer 1972. As it happens, I identified the top in *The Sunday Times* but, like others, had little idea what was to come over the next 2½ years. One bright fund manager gradually went entirely liquid. By new year 1975, when Burmah Oil had to be rescued and the end of investment seemed nigh, he looked pretty smart. The FT-SE all-share index had fallen 73 per cent. Then prices jumped 70 per cent in three weeks. Over the piece, his funds were the worst performers, even if the index did not top its 1972 peak until 1977.

Over the long haul, stock prices trend upwards as the economy grows. So it is more important to share in upturns than to avoid slumps. Regular savers should plough on regardless.

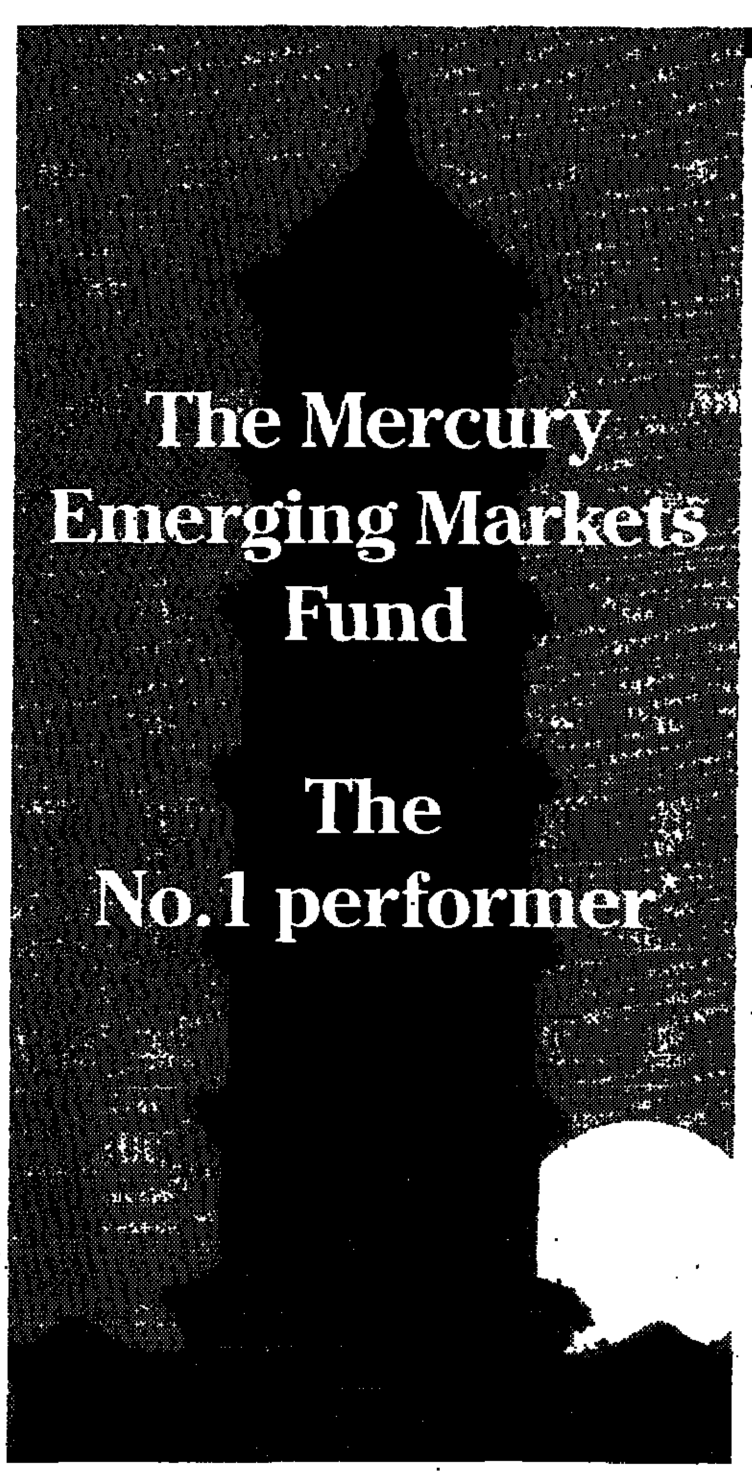
Life is not so easy if you have to invest a lump sum or decide when to convert a private pension. Since the 1970s, there have been no long UK bear markets, though prices fell in 1990 and 1994. That is no guarantee for the future. PDFM argues that its standback approach saved clients from being splattered when the 1980s Japanese bubble burst and shares fell 60 per cent in 30 months.

Mini versions of the October 1987 crash, always a seasonal ghost, are now more typical. It suits professionals if uptrends are punctuated by short, sharp corrections of varying severity, which blow away froth and get bad news out of the way fast. These are even harder to negotiate but the same principles apply.

Historic and cyclical trends are the usual guides, on share ratings, the gap between dividend yields, bond yields and the interest rate on cash. In the UK, these suggest share prices are near the top of their short-term range, rather than madly overvalued. But money interest rates are low and do not presage any cyclical downturn.

On Wall Street, historically low yields make prices vulnerable to early rises in interest rates and must be explained away by a trend to lower payouts. That is suspicious, as is the thesis that cyclical patterns have been suspended. In the UK, many question how long high rates of profit growth can be sustained after a step fall in inflation rates. Profit's share of national income can expand a bit more, but not much. Mr Dye, by contrast, fears an upturn in inflation, but there is little sign of that and it would take some time to hit share values.

Private investors have a rare advantage over the £50 billion fund manager. While markets as a whole may not offer good value, there are still plenty of individual UK shares that should produce good returns at current yields and likely rates of dividend growth. For those who make no claim to market timing, such defensive stocks, along with gilt-edged, look preferable to cash.



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Does what went up really have to come back down?

Richard Thomson looks at the perils created by the rise and rise of New York's stock market

Imagine going up in a hot air balloon. It's fun to start with, and it gets exhilarating the higher you go, but at some point you start to wonder whether it is really sensible to go any further. The New York stock market reached that point months ago.

It thought it had found the safety valve during the summer, when a drop in prices took some of the hot air out of share prices, but now the market has started to rise again. The Dow Jones industrial average, which had fallen from its pre-summer high of about 5,780, is now back at 100 points above that level. By the start of last week it had risen for eight days in a row. Investors have again begun to wonder why it is rising and how much longer it can go on.

David Schulman, chief equity strategist at Salomon Brothers in New York, said: "Of course the market is overvalued. But it's going to get overvalued some more before this is over."

Mr Schulman is predicting that unless the Federal Reserve Board spoils the party by raising interest rates in the next few days, the Dow will go above 6,200 in the foreseeable future. "If the Fed leaves rates alone, it'll be plain sailing through November," he predicted. The reasons are at least twofold. One is the continuing river of money pouring into mutual funds (the US equivalent of unit trusts) from private investors worried about plumping up their retirement provision. In a rising market, fund managers have to invest almost all the new cash to keep up with the index, which only pushes the index higher still.

The other reason is the state of the US economy. It is, at the moment, said by the more bullish analysts to be in a "Goldilocks phase" — not too hot, not too cold, but just right; like the porridge in the fable. At least that was the view until early last week, but the market is jittery and its views change almost daily.

The main worry — that the economy is growing too fast and that the Fed is planning an interest rate increase at its Open Market Committee meeting on Tuesday — surfaced strongly in the last few days. That produced a temporary setback in the market's rise, but there is an air of the market fussing over nothing.

If the Fed does raise rates, it is unlikely to be by more than 0.25 per cent, which is not enough to damage the corporate earnings outlook for next year. And there is, in any case, no certainty that it will go for a rate rise since the economic news is by no means conclusive. To some analysts, the jitters over the Fed merely indicate that investors have nothing more important to worry about.

Rather, any serious threat to share prices seems to come from elsewhere. A renewed bout of hostilities with Iraq could deliver a setback to financial markets, but this is too uncertain for most analysts to factor into their predictions. A sudden surge in US economic strength would also be a negative factor but looks unlikely at present.

And then there is the US election. The markets like the current arrangement of a Democratic President Clinton and a Republican-led Congress. Any upset to the status quo would probably, therefore, cause some upset among investors.

The worst would probably be if the Democrats regained control of Congress, upsetting the perceived balance between liberal and conservative forces. If Bob Dole were to win the presidency there might also be some upset, since the bond markets do not like the look of his low-tax, high-spending policies. But at the moment none of these risks appears to be a significant threat. One reason for the market setback over the summer was that corporate earnings appeared to falter, but that is now behind us and most analysts agree that the prospects for next year look good.

The New York stock market, in other words, cannot find any cogent reasons not to keep on rising for the foreseeable future, even though it knows that shares are already unusually expensive. Eight months ago, few thought the 6,000 level on the Dow would be reached this year. Now it is within striking distance.

Morse code that tempts toddlers

Fidelity Investments is to target younger investors with its MoneyBuilder range. By offering kiddies' building blocks to promote its latest product, MoneyBuilder Growth, Fidelity would seem to be stealing a march on its competitors as the first fund manager to target toddlers. And they do say youngsters are easily persuaded by marketing. The fund is not exactly new: Fidelity has taken an existing unit trust called UK Dividend Growth Fund, Pepped it, reduced the charges and renamed it. In other words, it has added the fifth block to its MoneyBuilder range. The UK Dividend Growth Fund is just two years old and, says Fidelity, "is the best performing fund since its launch, in the Growth and Income sector".

"It's a marketing exercise," says Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broe, the independent financial adviser. "It's a good time to market the fund because two years from launch it should be performing well. It has been buying into a rising market from a cash position so you would expect it to outperform the markets. The litmus test would be five years." Fidelity stresses that its MoneyBuilder Pep range is "no-load". To toddlers who might not understand the jargon, that means no initial charge. It also comes with no exit fee and an annual management fee of 1 per cent. These are attractive rates that can have a considerable impact on returns. There are plenty of other no-load funds on the market, but Fidelity offers the widest range without exit charges.

HIT OR MISS

MoneyBuilder Growth is designed for investors who want a small amount of income with capital growth. The minimum investment is £3,000 and there is a monthly savings option above that amount. The investment stategy of Sam Morse, the fund manager, is to pick companies that show a good track record in dividend growth. "To me a company which can consistently increase its dividend year after year is a very attractive proposition. Companies which have achieved this have tended to perform better than those which have not," says Mr Morse.

SARAH JONES

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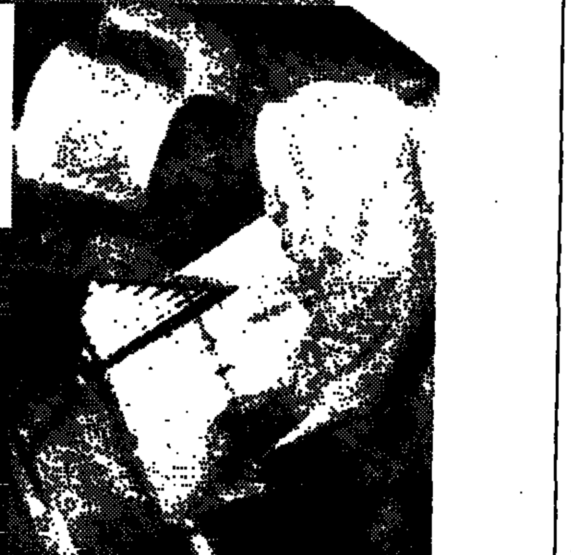

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Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McManners.

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Old failing of too little too late

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

If a week is a long time in politics, then what is two years? In 1994, when the personal pensions scandal was at its height, the Office of Fair Trading should have intervened. Instead this supposed guardian of consumers' interests stayed strangely silent, as if the plight of the 500,000 individuals cajoled from company schemes into inferior personal pensions was a minor issue.

This week the OFT has finally entered the fray, with the announcement that it is to investigate the personal pensions industry. It will examine "consumers' experiences in buying pensions, the effect of their choices on pension entitlement and the potential for detriment".

However, the move has come too late. What the OFT delicately terms the "innate weaknesses" in the system have already been exposed. Meanwhile, the body seems to have no remit to speed up the payment of compensation to those who have fallen victim to these imperfections. The OFT explains that it wishes to look forward, to learn lessons from the past, finding out why the Australians and the Chileans are so proficient with their pension arrangements, in contrast to the ill-prepared British. It is certainly true that our reluctance to save for old age is a serious problem that, if unresolved, spells catastrophe for the next century. But confidence cannot be restored until past wrongs are put right. On page 31, we report on the delays, dissension and missed deadlines that continue to plague the personal pensions review, begun in July 1994. Those of a cynical turn of mind will not be surprised to learn that everyone is blaming everyone else for the lack of progress. Claimants, their lawyers and their union leaders accuse the insurance companies of dragging their feet to avoid paying out.

Insurance companies are pointing the finger at company schemes. The schemes, for their part, are constrained by the idiosyncrasies of their own rules. Amid this wrangling, few victims of mis-selling have been able to complete even the first step of the compensation procedure. The PIA, the watchdog responsible for the review, must bear much of the responsibility for this prevarication. But its unwillingness to censure openly its insurance company and financial adviser members aids and abets their bad behaviour. So flawed are its systems that one *Times* reader seeking recompense for bad advice on a pension transfer was mistakenly directed to another compensation channel where, paradoxically, his case was settled.

The PIA should now publicly reprimand those companies who have been more dilatory than the rest in dealing with their pension compensation cases. Or it risks being seen as the protector of the pensions industry, not the investor's friend. The OFT, at the same time, should carefully consider how a powerful investor watchdog can ensure that a nation feels secure in planning and saving for its retirement. It will not find an example at home.

Secret society

The Alliance & Leicester Building Society's vow of silence over the full details of its conversion plans remains unbroken. This week the society would neither confirm nor deny that any saver with less than £100 in an account should replenish it as soon as possible, or risk exclusion from the free share distribution. Anyone in such a position would be well advised to rush round to their branch now. However, you will not hear this from the A&L. Savers will tolerate this lack of openness until they receive their payout. Then they may choose to take their custom elsewhere in a growing savings market that from next week will include the Prudential. The Pru is launching its own deposit-taking division, preparatory to buying a building society. Perhaps it is the A&L's fear that it may be the subject of the Pru's desire that lies behind its hush-hush dash to the stock market.

Wait over for A&L members

Share account holders should top up their balances or risk losing out, says Karen Zagor

SOCIETY WATCH

The long, frustrating wait for the three million plus savers and borrowers with the Alliance & Leicester will soon be over. After many months of tantalising members by announcing flotation plans without revealing any details of how many free shares will be offered, the society this week said it would start mailing its conversion plans to members in November. The voting date will follow in December.

This means that share account holders who have let their balances fall below £100 should top up their accounts now or risk losing out. Although the society has been sparing with the details of its flotation, a few features have emerged. One novel twist is that the Alliance & Leicester is allowing share account holders who had balances of less than £100 at December 31, 1995 — the qualifying date — to bring their accounts back up to the £100 level 56 days before the voting date.

Anyone who fails to replenish their account in time will get only the statutory cash bonus, which will also be offered to children.

Savers and borrowers who were on the books at December 31, last year, must remain with the society until it floats and converts to a bank in the spring. Anyone who rushed to open an Alliance & Leicester account at the beginning of this year when speculation about the society's plans reached fever pitch will not qualify. Nor will those holding deposit-type accounts only. And while Alliance & Leicester owns Girobank, the 1.3 million Girobank customers will not benefit from the flotation.

It is widely expected that Alliance & Leicester will reward about three million members with more than £800 worth of free shares. It is still unclear whether the society's plans include a basic distribution for all members plus an extra variable distribution for those with bigger balances, or whether it will give the same amount of shares to all savers and borrowers.

Peter White, the society's chief executive, says members should receive the transfer statement in plenty of time to absorb the details before the vote. The main document is 100 pages — so hefty that the society had to test getting it through a variety of letter boxes to make sure the Post Office would be able to deliver it — but there will be a summary sheet at the front.

The cost of conversion has not been cheap. Mr White estimates it will cost about £50 million, of which £10 million will be for postage. It is possible that members will vote against the flotation plan, but this is unlikely.

Members should write in with any questions to the Alliance & Leicester Building Society, Conversion Inquiries Team, Oadby Administration, Leicester LE2 4PS.

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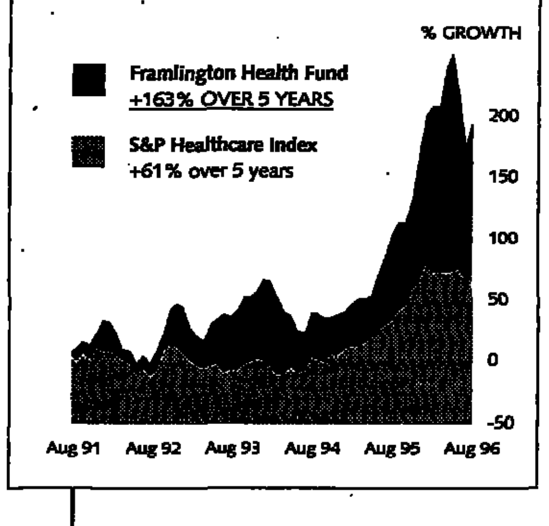

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Investment Week, 22 July 1996

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The older the dearer

In the third part of a series on health insurance, **Helen Pridham** considers age-related costs

Private medical insurance often hits the highest note when the policyholder is over 60

The older you get, the more expensive it is to buy private medical insurance. And while policyholders currently receive basic rate tax relief of 24 per cent on their premiums at the age of 60, this goes only a small way to mitigating the high cost. If Labour forms the next government and proceeds with its proposal to remove tax relief, the problem will get worse.

Many are already finding the cost of existing policies prohibitively high when they reach their 60s and 70s. Stephen Walker of Medical Insurance Services of Brighton, says: "Just when people really start to need their policies, they find they are least able to afford them."

He recommends that buyers should check policies for any age-related increases in premiums, beyond medical inflation rises, to determine what the costs to them will be in later years. George Connelly of Health Care Matters of Dorchester, says: "Historically, medical inflation has been well above normal inflation so it would be wise to assume that such increase will, on average, be double normal inflation." Age-related premium increases may occur every five or ten years. "It is not unusual for a premium to increase by up to 60 per cent between age 60 and 70," says Mr Connelly.

There are some companies, however, that impose few, if any, age-related increases. OHRA, the Dutch insurer that provides full inpatient and outpatient cover under its policies, falls into this category but does not accept new customers over the age of 60.

Many who have enjoyed private medical insurance through a company scheme often do not start looking at individual policies until they retire and are already over the age of 60. Mr Connelly recommends that they try their existing company insurer as a first port of call "because that way they may get ongoing cover for existing complaints — but they often find the premiums are astronomical".

Most insurers do accept new members at older ages and the benefits remain much as before, depending on the level of cover chosen, with small modifications to ensure that the policy qualifies for tax relief. This usually involves dropping any cash benefits given if treatment takes place under the NHS as well as any payments towards alternative treatments.

Some policies for the over-60s are more restrictive. Bupa has recently relaunched its Bupa SeniorCare policy. As a cost-control measure, it now offers a much more limited range of hospitals to choose from: down from 800 plus to 170.

One reader, aged 82 and a member of Bupa for the last 30 years, feels pressure is being put on existing policyholders to change to the new scheme. "It reduces the choice of hospitals in our area from 11 to two and they are both about an hour's drive away, which would make it more difficult for my wife, who is 79, to visit me in hospital and vice-versa," he said.

Peter Fermoy, of Bupa, said senior policyholders were being encouraged to migrate to the new scheme, but it was not compulsory. "If they don't, though, they will miss out on the extra benefits". These include £1,000 of nursing home care.

The Exeter Friendly Society's Preferred scheme is popular among the over-60s, says Mr Walker. "It has no age-related premium increases once you become a policyholder. But there are limits on outpatient benefits."

Another way of keeping premium costs down is to accept an excess — if you are sure you will be able to afford the initial cost of your treatment. Another tip is never to cancel an existing policy until you are covered by an alternative when considering a switch. Existing conditions may not be covered under the new policy.

THE INCREASING COST OF COVER

Monthly premiums for standard private medical cover for treatment in regional hospitals (all figures in £)

	Age	
	55 (joining)	70*
Bupa Care scale C	65.32	89.19
BCWA scale C	54.88	72.55
Exeter Friendly Society Preferred	41.98	31.90 (53.03+)
Norwich Union Expresscare 2	68.86	105.68
OHRA Executive 2000 scale C	53.11	53.11
PPP Extensive level 2	67.69	87.04
WPA Cedar area 3	49.30	74.10

*Tax relief deducted where appropriate. You cannot join the scheme at 70.
+New members
Information supplied by Medical Insurance Services (Tel: 0500 464848)

FIRST PUBLIC OFFER
of units at 50p each closes 1.30 p.m.
Monday 30th September 1996

M&G EUROPEAN SMALLER COMPANIES FUND

The new M&G European Smaller Companies Fund will invest in smaller companies in Europe, with the sole objective of long-term capital growth.
The market for European companies is undergoing rapid change. M&G have deliberately timed the launch of the new European Smaller Companies Fund to capitalise on the high potential rewards from the sector as it enters this exciting new phase.
We believe the new Fund has the key ingredients for success, combining opportunity in a growth sector with M&G's proven track record of stock selection in both European and smaller company markets.

Fund objective
The fund will invest in smaller companies in Europe with the sole objective of capital growth. The manager will generally seek to draw the holdings from a universe of companies which constitute the bottom third in terms of total market capitalisation. There may be some investment in medium and larger capitalised companies which will enhance the liquidity of the Fund. Exchange rate fluctuations can affect both income and capital values. The market in securities issued by smaller companies is narrow and investors should expect wider than average price fluctuations.

Applying for units at the launch
The initial offer period will run from 10th September 1996 until 30th September 1996. Applications cannot be accepted before 10th September.

Applications for units at 50p each must be accompanied by a cheque made payable to M&G Securities Limited and must reach M&G not later than 1.30 p.m. on 30th September 1996 when the initial offer closes. The minimum initial investment is £1,000.

We do not issue certificates of title for units but investors will be issued with an acknowledgement on completion of each transaction. This confirms full registration details and the number of units held.

Investors should note that units cannot be redeemed until after the initial offer period. This does not affect cancellation rights where applicable.

Buying and selling units after the launch
After the offer period has closed our Customer Services Department in Chelmsford will be open for dealing between 8.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. on each business day. If you send dealing instructions to any other M&G office, we do not normally process them until they reach Chelmsford, which may lead to a delay in carrying out your instructions. We usually only calculate prices once on each business day but we may carry out additional valuations of the funds where we consider it desirable to do so. When buying units, you pay the buying price (i.e. offer price), and when you sell units back to us, you receive the selling price (i.e. the bid price). In each case we send you a contract note showing the price.

We only deal at 'forward' prices, that is the price next calculated after we receive your order.

If you buy units by post you must send your payment for the purchase of units with your instructions. If you buy units by telephone, you must pay for the purchase no later than five business days after the date of the contract note.

We pay the proceeds of a sale of units not later than four business days after either (i) we receive your instructions or (ii) we receive a correctly completed form of renunciation, where required. We do not normally require a form of renunciation if all the following points apply:

- the holding is registered in a sole name;
- the sale proceeds are to be made payable to the registered holder at his registered address;
- that address has not changed within the previous 30 days; and
- the total amount payable for all sales made on that day does not exceed £6,000.

We reserve the right to require a form of renunciation in any case. We issue a form of renunciation, when we require one, with your contract note.

Unit prices after 30th September 1996
The prices will be calculated each business day as at 1.30 p.m. and the prices are usually available by 4.00 p.m. The Managers have a discretion to carry out additional valuations when they consider it desirable to do so. Prices and yields will appear daily in the Financial Times. The spread represents the difference (based on the offer price) between the price at which you may buy units and the price at which you may sell units. The price of your units must rise by at least this amount before you cover your dealing costs. The spread includes 0.5% transfer stamp duty when applicable. The value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. You may get back less than you invested.

Based on Manager's projected portfolio as at 5th August 1996 the estimated gross distribution yield was 0.69% per annum. It is anticipated that at least a substantial proportion of the distributions made on this new fund will be paid as Foreign Income Dividends (FIDs).

Since this will be a new unit trust it is not possible to quote either the most recent bid-offer spread, or the maximum permitted spread, but in normal circumstances the spread between the bid and offered prices is likely to be between 5.25% and 5.5% of the offer price though we retain the right to widen the spread or change the pricing basis within the permitted range. We like to base the offer price on the creation price which usually gives sellers a bid price higher than the cancellation price. However, we may widen the spread, or change the pricing basis of units, within the range permitted by the relevant statutory regulations.

For large deals (which the Financial Services (Regulated Schemes) Regulations regard as deals in excess of £15,000) we may widen the spread within the permitted limits.

Income and Accumulation units
Income and Accumulation units will be issued. Accumulation units provide a facility for the automatic reinvestment of income without having to pay any initial charge on the reinvestment. The reinvestment is included in the price of Accumulation units. The number of Accumulation units does not change. The effect of the reinvestment shows in the relative increase in the price of Accumulation units over Income units.

You may convert Accumulation units into Income units and vice versa at any time without liability to capital gains tax. We make no charge for this service but we allot only whole numbers of units and retain any fraction of a unit arising from the conversion in the fund for the benefit of all unitholders.

Income distributions, whether paid or reinvested, will be treated in an identical manner for tax purposes.

We issue only whole numbers of units and will hold any balance money in a client money account and carry it forward to the next income payment date. The Fund will distribute on a half yearly basis, the first ex-dividend date being 19th May 1997 and the first payment date being 10th July 1997. The next ex-dividend and payment dates will be 24th November 1997 and 12th January 1998 respectively.

Taxation of the Fund
The Fund will pay corporation tax at 20%.

It is expected that the Fund will pay all or at least a substantial proportion of the distributions as foreign income dividends (FIDs). Distributing this income as a FID, as opposed to an ordinary distribution, saves tax, resulting in a higher net distribution for you.

Authorised unit trusts are exempt from capital gains tax on dealings within the Fund.

Income tax
Dividend distributions carry a tax credit, currently 20%. If you are liable to the basic rate or lower rate band, you will have no further tax to pay. Higher rate taxpayers will have a further liability to tax. If you are not liable to pay tax, you can use the tax voucher to support a tax repayment claim.

FID distributions will not carry a tax credit, although they will be treated as having been taxed at 20%. The only difference for you from a normal dividend distribution is that you will not be able to claim a tax repayment if you are not liable to tax.

Capital gains tax
When you sell units you may, depending upon your personal circumstances, be liable to pay capital gains tax on the increase in value of the units. For 1996/97 an individual's first £6,300 of gains on disposals in any tax year is to be exempt from tax. Gains in excess of £6,300 will be added to your other income and taxed accordingly. There is additional relief as the cost of buying the units is indexed to allow for inflation.

Managers' reports
Every six months, on the applicable payment dates, you will be sent a half yearly or annual accounting report on the progress of your fund, the 'Managers' Report'. At the same time you will receive an income distribution, if you hold Income units, and a tax voucher. Your tax voucher will confirm on a six-monthly basis your holding as at the relevant ex-distribution date. If no distribution is payable, we send a confirmation of your holding with the Managers' Report.

Charges
An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price which is the maximum authorised by the trust deed. The Managers' annual charge of 1.25% based on the fund's mid-market value is deducted from gross income fortnightly on a pro-rata basis. Trustees fees (which are subject to VAT) are based on a scale reflecting the size of the Fund, namely; on the first £50 million, 0.0150% and £50 million to £150 million, 0.0125%. Registration fees are 0.08% plus VAT. The annual custodian charge as at 10th September 1996 would have represented less than 0.1%.

Trustees and auditors
The Trustee is Lloyds Bank PLC. The Trust Deed may be inspected at the Head Office of the Trustee or at M&G's office at 3 Minster Court, Great Tower Street, London EC3R 7XH. The auditors are Coopers & Lybrand.

Further information
The Fund is a wider-range investment and is authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986. In certain circumstances you are entitled to cancel your contract to purchase units and have the sum you invested returned to you.

A full statement of the investment and borrowing powers of M&G unit trusts appear in Scheme Particulars, enclosed in the M&G Handbook, available free of charge from M&G.

Cancellation rights arise under the Financial Services (Cancellation) Rules 1989 and only apply if you invest through an independent financial adviser on his/her personal recommendation and your customer agreement with them does not exclude cancellation rights.

When you invest a lump sum you will not get a full refund of the money you have paid if the offer price of the investment falls before we know that you have served the cancellation notice. This is because we deduct an amount equal to such fall in the offer price from the refund you would otherwise receive.

Cautionary notes
The value of the tax benefits of PEPs will depend on your own circumstances.

The tax regime of PEPs could change in the future. You should always remember that the value of units and the income from them may go down as well as up and that you may not get back the amount you invested. Holdings in overseas investments are subject to exchange rate fluctuations which can affect both income and capital value.

M&G does not offer investment advice or make any recommendations about investments. We only promote the packaged products and services of The M&G Marketing Group.

M&G unit trusts are managed by M&G Securities Limited (regulated by IMRO and The Personal Investment Authority) and The M&G PEP is managed by M&G Financial Services Limited (regulated by The Personal Investment Authority).

Any queries?
If you have any queries concerning any aspect of the M&G unit trust range please get in touch with your usual independent financial adviser (if you have one) or M&G's Customer Services Department, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Telephone (01245) 390390 (8 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Monday to Friday).

APPLICATION FORM

To: M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB.

1 Please use this form if you wish to invest in the fund outside The M&G PEP.

2 If you wish to invest in the fund via The M&G PEP Plan tick this box ☐ and complete section 3 only and we will send you a personal application form.
Alternatively, telephone 0990 600 629 for details.

3 Personal Details
Please complete the full forenames in which units are to be registered (minimum age 14 years, but see note 1 below if you wish to buy units for children under 14 years of age).

First Holder		Second Holder	
Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other:		Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other:	
Full Forenames:		Full Forenames:	
Surname:		Surname:	
Address:		Address:	
	Postcode:		Postcode:
Telephone No. (inc. STD code) (See note 1 below)	Daytime:	Telephone No. (inc. STD code) (See note 2 below)	Daytime:
	Evening (optional): ACTQ		Evening (optional):

4 Investment Details
Please complete below the amount you wish to invest. You will also need to show which unit type you require.

Full name of fund chosen	Amount to be invested (min £1,000)	Unit type required* (delete as appropriate)	Payment method
M&G European Smaller Companies Fund	£ .00	Income/Accumulation	Please make your cheque payable to "M&G Securities Limited". If you wish to receive income distributions**, please indicate "I" in this box ☐

*If no unit type is selected, we will issue accumulation units. **Please note that the income payments received from this fund will be negligible.

5 Declaration
I/we apply to make the above investment specified above. (Joint applicants should both sign).

Signature 1	Date	Signature 2	Date

Note 1. Purchases for children under 14 years of age should be registered in the name of an adult and their [illegible] may be designated, if desired. Designation e.g. initials of child [illegible]
Note 2. Please give your daytime telephone number so that if we have a query we can try to contact you at once; [illegible]. As part of our customer service, we contact a random sample of investors in the evening to ensure that they are happy with our standards of administration. If you are happy to take part in this research, please give your evening telephone number. If this business is introduced via an Independent Financial Adviser (IFA), we will contact that IFA with any queries.
Note 3. This application is for individuals investing directly with M&G. An investor dealing directly with M&G does not have any right to cancel contract under The Financial Services (Cancellation) Rules 1989.
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the main purpose of upwards, ever upwards.

Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

هكذا من الأصل

Why trusts are on song in Europe

TRUST WATCH

European trusts have come under the spotlight in recent weeks. The biggest shock was the news that Morgan Grenfell had suspended trading in its European Growth Trust after trading irregularities. This week, Morgan Grenfell dismissed Peter Young, the fund's manager. Then there was the hostile takeover bid of the Kleinwort Benson European Privatisation Investment. *Weekend Money* looks at the prospects for European trusts.

European hopes: singer Sandie Shaw made her mark for Britain in a competitive continental environment . . .

Do the problems at MG mean that European trusts are more risky than those investing elsewhere?

No. The problems could just as easily have arisen in a fund investing in the UK, the US or anywhere else. However, MG's difficulties highlight the fact that European trusts can be a riskier proposition than some of those investing in them may realise. The problem, says Laurence Boyle, director of Williams de Broe, the stockbroker, is that often "you are not comparing apples with apples". Some trusts will be heavily invested in French and German blue chips, others in in smaller Scandinavian companies, say. You are unlikely to find any of the former at the top of the performance tables, but they may be a far safer bet.

Is Europe a good investment prospect generally?

Yes, with the above caveat and as part of a balanced portfolio. The US market is currently overpriced — "defying gravity", in the words of Keivan Borhani, investment director at Murray Noble, the financial adviser — and the UK is following in its wake. Europe offers far better value and better growth prospects. Moves towards monetary union mean currencies are likely to remain relatively stable; and Eastern Europe is providing opportunities that will benefit companies from Community countries.

How can investors be safeguarded from a repetition of what happened with MG?

The Securities and Investments Board is reviewing the rules on trusts' ownership of unlisted stock. Whatever SIB does, investors and their advisers should ask searching questions about a trust's asset allocation. Some funds already guarantee to hold a minimum proportion of blue chips, and spread the risk by pegging the percentage of the fund put in any one stock. In any event, fund managers are likely to become increasingly sensitive about their exposure to unlisted stocks and reduce it accordingly. The MG situation also highlights the need to have a strong parent company which, like Deutsche Bank, can step in in the event of difficulties.

. . . as did Cliff Richard

Does this mean that now is actually a good time to buy a European trust?

Ironically, yes. Advisers are likely to be more cautious in the providers they recommend. Alan Emery, director at Berry Birch & Noble, says his firm will not be alone in having reviewed the companies on its approved panel and sought reassurance from some on their financial security.

Unit trust providers admit privately to having reacted to the news about MG with a rapid review of their own funds' volatility and exposure to unlisted stocks.

Mr Borhani adds that if some investors are deterred, this may benefit those who are not. For example, M&G — no relation to Morgan Grenfell — was downplaying its expectations for the launch of its European smaller companies unit trust last week. While a smaller-than-expected number of investors may be bad news for M&G, it may be good news for those who do go in, says Mr Borhani.

"There is an argument for saying that the smaller the fund, the better the performance you can expect." Smaller amounts are easier for a fund manager to buy and sell quickly to take advantage of market changes, he says. "For the investor, it is a very good time to go into European trusts."

According to analysts, among the best buy funds on offer are: Gartmore European Select Opportunities; HTR (Henderson Touche Remnant) European Valve; Old Mutual European; Schroeder European Smaller Companies; Baring Europe Select; Jupiter European Growth.

Advisers are fairly unanimous that anyone already invested in the suspended MG fund should stay put, at least for the time being. But given Deutsche Bank's intervention and MG's otherwise good name, should new investors even consider buying into the fund?

At the moment, advisers are hanging fire on whether to advise new customers to invest in MG's European Growth Trust. Robert Guy, director at John Charcol, says his firm will decide once it has assessed the track record of the new fund manager put in to replace Mr Young. After which, it is quite likely MG will find its way back on to Charcol's "buy" list. He adds that, given all the bad publicity, MG is unlikely to put other than one of its best fund managers at the helm. "If there is one fund Morgan Grenfell will want to see perform well over the next few years, it is this one."

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The Bond is a strictly limited issue and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Withdrawals are not permitted until 20/11/98. From this date, withdrawals will be permitted on demand, subject to 180 days loss of interest on the amount withdrawn. However, the minimum balance of £1,000 must remain in the Bond at all times. Early closure of the Bond is not permitted except on the death of the investor. Interest will be paid after the deduction of income tax at the lower rate of 20% or, subject to the required certification, gross. Net equivalents on annual interest = 5.80% p.a., monthly interest = 5.60% p.a. and these assume the lower rate of income tax of 20%. Net rates are rounded and are for illustrative purposes only. Annual interest will be paid on 20th November each year, commencing on 20th November 1997. Monthly interest is paid out on the 1st of each month. Instant access will be available after maturity (from 20/11/99). Acceptance of investments for the bond is subject to satisfactory completion and return of the application form, which will be sent to you on receipt of the cheque. Cheques will be presented for clearance on receipt.

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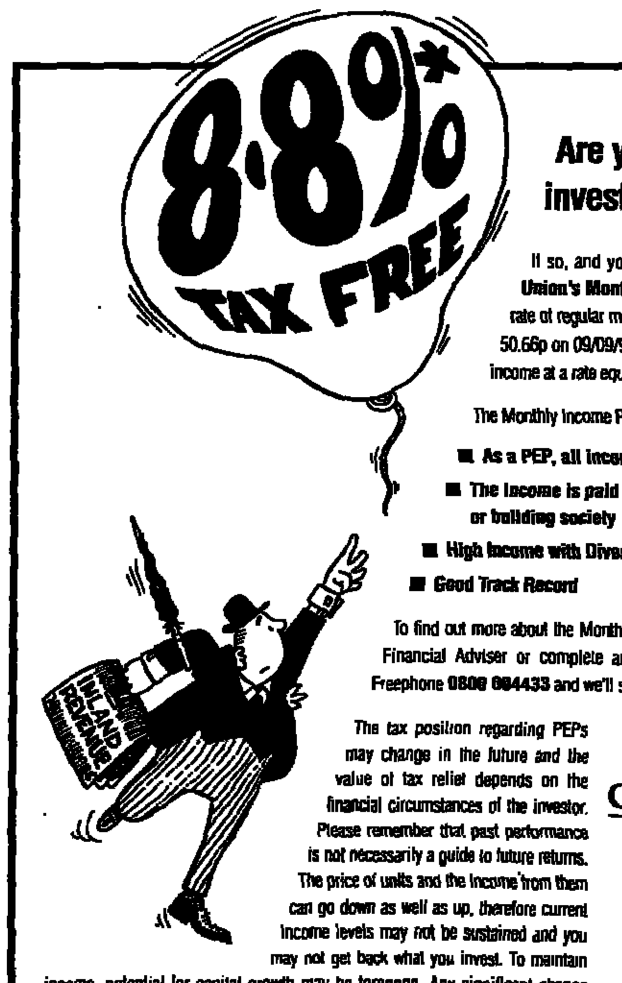

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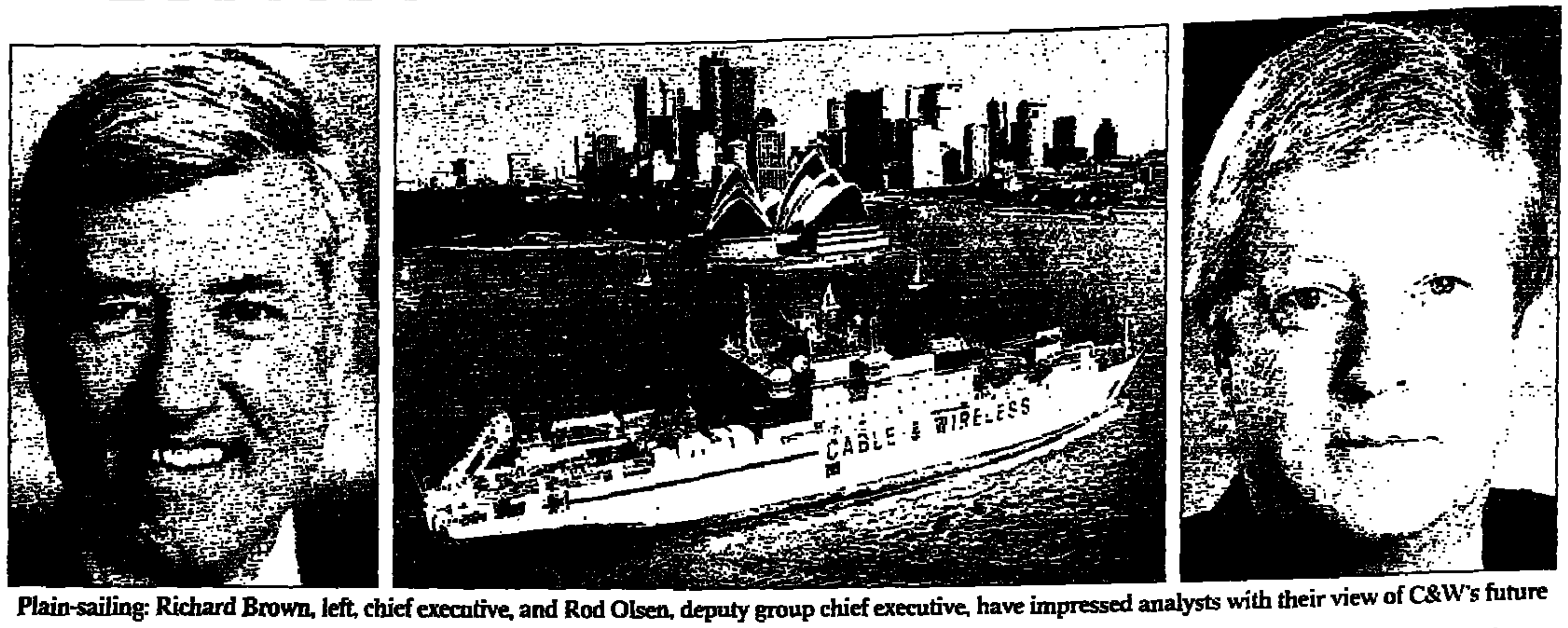

Plain-sailing: Richard Brown, left, chief executive, and Rod Olsen, deputy group chief executive, have impressed analysts with their view of C&W's future

Personal touch succeeds

A talk from the new C&W chief does wonders for investors' confidence, says **Karen Zagor**

Investors had something to cheer about this week after Cable and Wireless's new chief executive hit the road to meet financial analysts. Brokers were so impressed with his comments that a number recommended the shares, helping to lift the share price through most of the week. The improvements will bring comfort to Cable and Wireless shareholders, who have suffered through an alarming year. In April, the shares hit an all-time peak of 546p. But by May they were in free-fall and by July had lost about 11 per cent of their value, hitting a low of 399p.

Why have the shares performed so erratically?

The shares soared in the spring in anticipation of a merger between Cable & Wireless and British Telecom, which would have created a £35 billion global telecoms group. But as prospects of a merger retreated in May, so did the share price. Hard on the heels of the thwarted merger, the announcement that Richard Brown was to take over as chief executive did little to halt the decline. Although Mr Brown was a veteran of the American telecoms industry, he was an unknown quantity to the City, and the weak share price reflected the City's continued uncertainty about the company's future.

Why is the new appointment so important?

For many months before the May announcement, C&W had been a juggernaut without a captain. In November its chairman, Lord Young of Graffham, was ousted in a boardroom battle along with James Ross, its chief executive. While Rod Olsen quickly took charge as acting chief executive, the transience of his tenure meant C&W was unlikely to undergo a radical overhaul.

At the same time, most analysts were agreed that C&W needed a bit of a shake-up. Concern has centred on the company's dependence on profits from its majority stake in Hongkong Telecom. Although Hongkong Telecom is undoubtedly the star of the C&W stable, the imminent arrival of China in the territory makes it difficult to predict how Hongkong Telecom will fare in the future.

In addition, there is a growing belief that C&W's strategy of taking minority stakes in companies in too many countries does not make business sense. So when Mr Brown introduced himself to the City, analysts were looking for signs that the new chief was willing to make some necessary changes.

What does the future hold for Cable and Wireless?

It is, of course, too early to say whether the new chief executive will be able to drive the company to higher earnings and an improved performance for shareholders, but, after meeting Mr Brown, many analysts are optimistic.

James Ross at ABN Amro Hoare Govett, which issued a "buy" note on the shares after the meeting, cited Mr Brown's upbeat, aggressive and direct appearance and noted that his bonus payment depends on earnings growth of 15 per cent a year, compound, over three years. Mr Ross particularly liked Mr Brown's emphasis on improving efficiency at the same time as pushing for sales growth. If sales continue to grow by at least 8 per cent a year at the same time as keeping costs level, then overall operating profits could grow by over 20 per cent a year, leading to earnings growth above the market average.

Chris McFadden at Merrill Lynch, who raised his rating on the shares from "neutral" to "accumulate" noted that Mr Brown planned to tackle some of the company's more speculative investments as a way of improving shareholder value. Merrill Lynch now expects the shares to hit 500p within the year.

How have the shares fared since privatisation?

Like other companies that were sold off in stages, the performance of C&W shares depends largely on which stage of the process you look at. And, like most privatisations, the early issues did far better than the later ones.

Those who bought into the first stage, in November 1981, bought into a goldmine. Stock splits have muddied the waters. The issue price was the equivalent of only 28p a share. Today, the shares trade at about 452p, a breathtaking improvement. Those who bought in November 1983 also did well, paying the equivalent 68.75p per share. But the performance of the third and final tranche, in March 1985, will have had far more modest gains, since the issue price was equivalent to a more hefty 146.75p.

Unlike some privatisations, C&W did not attract millions of investors: the first tranche of shares, sold in November 1981, was one of the first privatisations, attracting about 26,000 shareholders. By the end of the third stage, in 1985, C&W had about 211,000 shareholders. Today the numbers are closer to 171,000.

Sarah Jones studies a high street portfolio

Bargain-hunting at the bank

Abbey National has been a bank for more than seven years but most people still cannot help calling it a building society, partly because of the way Abbey behaves. Take the latest product launch, the Savings Bonds — it has a definite homely ring about it:

"We have reviewed our portfolio to make our bonds easier to understand and provide customers with a range to cover all their needs from one to five years," says a spokesman.

Promotional literature will feature a boomerang to symbolise that all five bonds offer a guaranteed rate of return. "Guarantee" is the catchword attached to many building society products these days. But one of the new Abbey bonds does offer a unique way of coping with the uncertainty over interest rates. The Stepped Bonus Bond is an 18-month bond with interest rates which increase every six months up to 7.25 per cent gross. In addition, the bond gives a Base Rate Bonus of 1.25 per cent if the bank base rate rises to 7.25 per cent or more for the whole of the final six-month period. That would increase the average 6.15 per cent return to 7.4 per cent. Analysts say though that the base rate, currently at 5.75 per cent, would have to move very quickly to reach 7.25 per cent by this time next year.

The base-rate bonus is a formula Abbey has used with its fixed-rate Tessa. On top of a fixed 7 per cent return, a 1 per cent per annum bonus if paid if the average base rate exceeds the previous year's average by at least 1 per cent. Minimum opening balance is £1,000.

A second Savings Bond also follows the escalator format. The Stepped Options Bond can be taken over a three or four-year term with interest rates increasing every six months up to 8.5 per cent gross. But like all escalator bonds the final interest rate hides the lower average rate: 6.6 per cent for three years, 7.03 per cent for four years. Minimum balance is £5,000. For a three-year term, the Abbey is easily beaten by a new bond from Bradford & Bingley paying 7.25 per cent on £1,000, and one from the Yorkshire paying 7.2 per cent on £2,500.

Abbey's Fixed Options Bond offers a one or two-year term and tiered interest rates. The one-year option pays from 5.3 per cent gross on £2,500 up to 6.15 per cent on £200,000 and above. Bristol & West's One Year Plus bond pays 6.25 per cent on £5,000. The two-year option pays 5.8 per cent to 6.65 per cent. Again the rate can be bettered and where you go depends on your balance. Birmingham Midshires offers 6.4 per cent on £5,000; the Woolwich 6.75 per cent on £25,000.

The remaining bonds appear to compete directly with National Savings. Abbey's Retirement Savings Bond (7.25 per cent gross annually fixed for five years) betters the NS Pensioners Bond's 7 per cent. But if you need monthly interest there is little in it as the Abbey rate drops to 7.02 per cent. The beauty of the NS bond is interest is paid gross — with Abbey you need to fill out an R85 form. Minimum balance is £2,500.

Finally, the Children's Savings Bond does offer competitive tiered rates from 7 per cent gross up to 7.8 per cent, against National Savings' Childrens Bond's 6.75 per cent. The deciding factor is the amount invested — from £25 with National Savings up to £1,000, the Abbey bond's minimum.

No withdrawals permitted until 1st January 1998. Monthly income available at slightly lower rates. Minimum investment £5,000, maximum £500,000. Interest will be paid or credited after deduction of income tax at 20% or, subject to the required certification, gross. Early closure is allowed after 1st January 1998, subject to loss of 180 day's interest, calculated at 7.[illegible]% gross. No partial withdrawals or further deposits allowed. Interest will be earned from the fourth day following the date the Society receives your cheque. In the event of an account holder's death before maturity, the Bond may either be transferred to the account holder's representatives/beneficiaries or it can be closed without penalty. Member of the Building Societies Association, Investors Protection Scheme and the Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme. Assets exceed £1.5 Billion.

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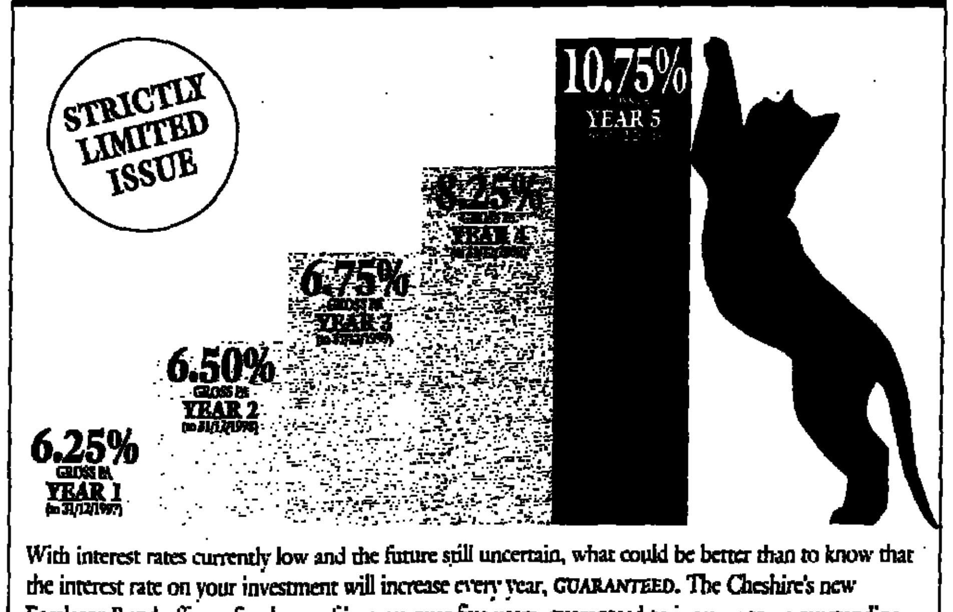

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Information is top tip

When it comes to share dealing, it's not what you've got but what you know, says **George Osborne**

Investors with share portfolios think money is their most valuable commodity. It is not. Information is the key to investment success. The problem is choosing; there is so much data on companies and share prices that investors risk being swamped.

How do you find the information that will be most useful and how can you employ it?

George Soros has explained his investment strategy

Starting out

The Stock Exchange publishes four good basic leaflets, *How to Buy and Sell Shares*, *A Glossary of Stockmarket Terms*, *An Introduction to the London Stock Exchange* and *A History of the London Stock Exchange*. Contact the Public Information Line on 0171-797 3306 for free copies.

ProShare, the lobby group for small shareholders, costs £29.95 to join and £34.95 a year in later years for a range of useful services. ProShare is at Library Chambers, 13 & 14 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5QB (0171-600 0984).

NatWest has a free booklet, *How to invest in shares* (0800 200 400). A beginner's book can be invaluable. The best include *Investors Chronicle Beginner's Guide to Investment*, by Bernard Gray (Random House, £12.99), *How to Read the Financial Pages*, by Edwin Lefevre (£15.99, paperback) and *Where are the Customers' Yachts*, by Fred Schwed (£12.99, paperback).

Choosing a broker

Broking can be found through banks and building societies and over the telephone, as well as in traditional firms. There are three levels of service:

☐ Execution only: the broker simply carries out instructions without giving advice. This is the cheapest service.

☐ Advisory services: There are two types — advice on individual shares and overall portfolio advice. In the first, the broker will advise on whether to buy, sell or hold particular shares. In the second, he will consider the balance of your portfolio, advise on matters such as capital gains tax, and give regular valuations.

☐ Discretionary portfolio management: suitable for investors for whom managers set minimum sizes of portfolio, £50,000 or £100,000, say.

ProShare's *Guide to You and Your Stockbroker* is £9.95, plus £1.50 postage. The Association of Private Client Investment Managers & Stockbrokers (112 Middlesex Street, London E1 7HY) offers a free guide to services.

Company information

Financial information about a company is essential for share decisions. Historical information — many investors keep files on companies in which they are interested — helps to put new figures into context.

The financial pages of your newspaper are a good source of information and comment. *Investors Chronicle* (£2.20 a week) contains comprehensive company coverage.

Most companies supply their annual report free. These give profit information, and statements on recent trading and outlook. Company registrars or share information offices supply copies.

Sharefinder, from ShareLink, the Birmingham broker, gives information on 1,100 companies. Its basic Company Reports service, at £4.95 per company, offers five years of key financial data, the consensus of City research houses, ratings and earnings analysis and forecast comparisons with the sector, company announcements and historical share price graphs. Contact: 0121-200 4600.

The *Hambro Company Guide* (£40) has brief financial details on about 2,000 main market and Alternative Investment Market companies. It is published by Hemmington Scott (0171-278 7769).

Share prices

Share price information is available in newspapers or on Teletext. These prices are mid prices. You pay a bit more when buying and get a little less when selling.

The Times lists share prices of major companies, day's change, price/earnings ratio, yield and year high and low.

Ceefax (BBC) and Teletext (Channel 4) give prices for most major companies, updated seven times a day, free of charge.

Telephone share price services have real-time prices, but most impose premium-rate call charges. Sharelink offers a normal-rate telephone share price line covering 2,500 companies. Contact: 0121-200 2242.

Software and the Net

Budget investment software packages are available for under £100. Winstock Software's *Analyst* programme is a good buy at £79.95 plus VAT (contact: 01962 715557).

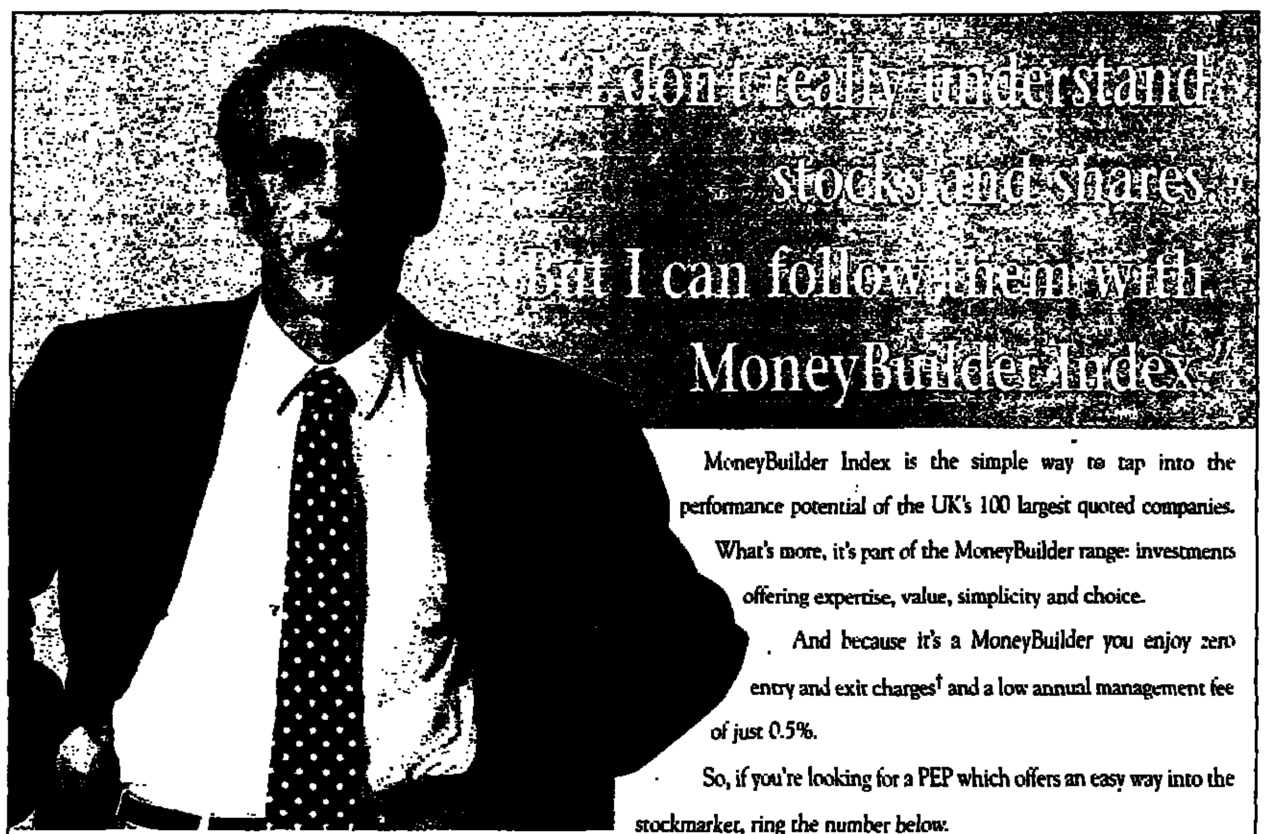
Start with a simple low-cost package and move up to avoid paying for expensive software you end up not using. Some suppliers let you upgrade by simply paying the difference for the higher-level package.

The Internet has demo versions of investment software and free software known as "shareware". You are supposed to pay a registration fee for an official version of shareware if you find it useful.

Gurus

The strategies of investment gurus such as Warren Buffet and George Soros often sound so easy — until you try them. *Soros on Soros*, by George Soros (£14.99, paperback), and *The Warren Buffet Way*, by Robert G. Hagstrom (£12.99, paperback), are published by John Wiley & Sons.

Gurus apart, take heart from Beardstown Ladies Investment Club, 16 ordinary women in Illinois, who, since 1983, have earned a 23.4 per cent average annual return on shares — more than double the Standard & Poor's 500.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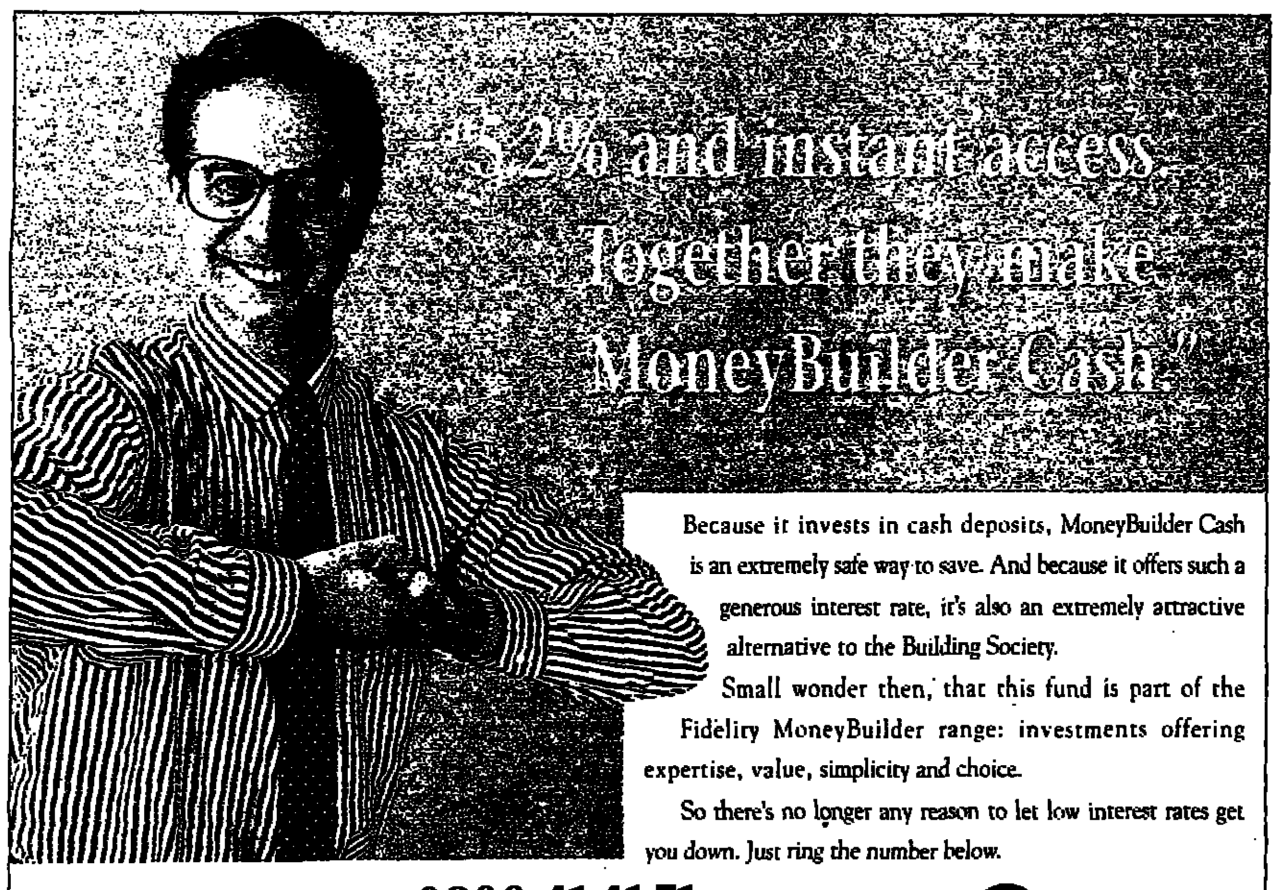
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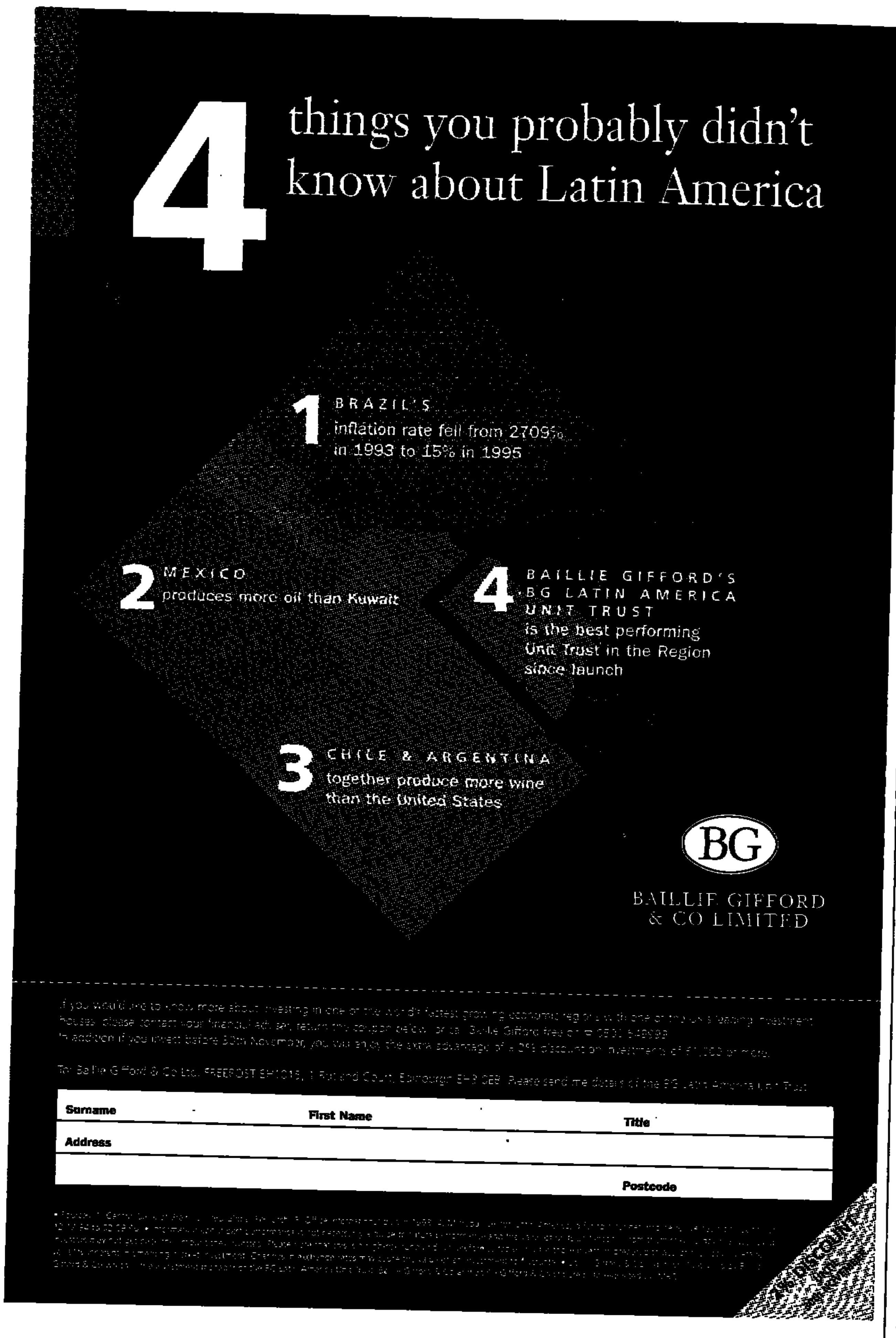

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Angels who fell prey to tax temptations

The Business Expansion Scheme (BES), the public's first foray into venture capitalism, has funded enterprises as diverse as Chinese restaurants, university lodgings and film projects, such as CFC, the special effects company that worked on *Memphis Belle*.

The first BES opportunities came in 1983. Their aim was to encourage wealthy investors to support unquoted trading companies, and so to create employment. Subscribers were given tax relief at their highest rate on investments of up to £60,000. Some have had exceptionally good returns, but others are now sitting on losses.

The annual tax-free return for 1996 will be an average of 17 per cent. By 1998, when the final schemes expire, that average will have fallen to about 13 per cent, reflecting the dip in interest rates towards 1993.

But while the investors in these schemes will walk off happily into the sunset, thousands more would-be business angels are locked in to their ailing unquoted company shares by heavy losses.

This split in investors' fortunes is largely historical. From 1983 to 1988, most schemes involved unquoted trading companies and investors received up-front tax relief on their money at the highest marginal rate of tax. In addition, there was no capital gain on any profit on the redemption of the shares after the five-year qualifying period. But the market exploded in 1988 when the rules were extended to include residential property companies which let out property under an assured tenancy. Non-property BES vanished almost overnight.

Maurice Fitzpatrick, senior tax consultant at Chantrey Vellacott, the accountant, said: "The rule changes were a real shot in the arm to the rented property sector. But they also served to crowd out almost everything else. People asked 'If you can invest in a quasi-guaranteed asset backed company, why bother investing in high-risk unquoted companies such as technology stocks?' Less than 1 per cent did after 1988."

In addition, assured tenancy had given landlords the right to evict non-paying tenants, thereby guaranteeing a steady flow of rental income. "It provided an opportunity to invest into what effectively was a residential property giving you a fair market return, of, say, 10 per cent per annum. Coupled with generous tax relief and asset backing, the investments proved irresistible," said Mr Fitzpatrick. BESt Investment, the stockbroker and market researcher, calculates that between August 1988 and December 1993, when the shemes were abolished, more than £3 billion poured into residential property companies. An estimated £2.4 billion of that went into some form of guaranteed scheme. Most of those mature over the next three years.

The cast of *Memphis Belle* was helped by BES funding

Investors who opted for the guaranteed, or contracted exit, schemes have fared the best. The return on their investment was guaranteed at the outset by one of two methods. Either the company set the price of the repayment to shareholders at the inception of the scheme by banking the cash on a fixed-term deposit, which it cashed in when the scheme matured. Or, investors were given a loan back immediately after they had paid for the shares, so that the company effectively bought out its investors, who in turn benefited from tax breaks. Most of this was made possible by the artificial nature of the schemes, whereby the property was presold at a fixed price, for example to universities for student housing.

For those who placed their cash with non-guaranteed schemes, the picture has been bleaker. More than £600 million was raised by entrepreneurial property schemes, and many investors are now trapped into BES shareholdings whose value fell with the collapse of the property market. According to BESt Investment, returns, where good, have often done only marginally better than bank deposit interest.

David Cartwright, venture capital partner at Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, said: "You either took out a guaranteed scheme or you went for a non-guaranteed high-risk, high-reward strategy. Some companies aspired to allow inflation to take care of property values and, with hindsight, were inevitably caught out."

Ironically, the problem for those who have lost money because of the fall in the value of their shares is compounded by the generous tax regime surrounding the scheme. On the upside, investors usually end up paying only 60p in the pound for their shares because of the 40 per cent tax relief on entry for higher-rate taxpayers and they also pay no tax on the gain falling out at maturity. On the downside they get no tax relief for capital losses: if the share value disappears, your money goes too. Like the many thousands of private householders caught in the negative equity trap, loss-making BES investors are putting their hopes on a revival in the residential property market.

Alistair Altham, Johnson Fry's marketing director, said: "*It appears the vast majority of the directors in these companies have taken a pragmatic view of the market and held on to their investments. Where they have decided to hold on for a while*, they have often done so by taking steps to reduce the overhead costs of running the company to improve shareholder returns."

Not everyone is satisfied that the reason behind the downturn in such property values lies solely with the economy. Peter Du Boff, a private-client adviser, said: "Some directors of BES companies clearly invested fairly badly in the first place. Some invested too quickly because of the need to invest within the Inland Revenue's two-year deadline to qualify for the tax relief."

Tim Villiers of EIBESA, the industry trade body, says investors should not sit idle if they believe that the company is being mismanaged. "There is no doubt that the more active an interest these BES investors take in the management of the company, the better the chance they have of getting a return on their investment," he said. "They have the same rights as other shareholders and may attend annual meetings, ask questions and vote."

The BES teaches valuable lessons. Mr Cartwright said: "Some people have been surprised that returns have not been as good as expected, but that is often what happens where high tax reliefs are offered up-front. It is a warning to venture capital markets that if a scheme is to be successful people will not go into it without high tax incentives. Yet investors should realise that putting money into unquoted companies is inevitably risky." BES proves the old adviser's adage that you should never invest simply for tax reasons.

ARTHUR PIPER

BES RESULTS FROM GUARANTEED SCHEMES

Annual tax-free return per £1 share

Companies	Maturity date	Contracted return per £1 share	Loan back after 3 yrs return per £1 share	Loan back after 5yrs return per £1 share
Homes for Tenants, 1-10	March 1998	n/a	98.24p	n/a
Homes for Tenants, 11-12	December 1998	n/a	n/a	118p
Tweed Premier, 1-6	December 1998	122p	n/a	n/a
Lyonsdown Properties, 1-2	June 1997	115p	variable loan options	
Lyonsdown Properties,3-12	October 1997	120p	n/a	n/a
Executive Estates, 1-6	March 1998	106p	n/a	n/a
Principal Portfolios, 1-4	March 1998	105p	n/a	n/a
Shannon Residential, 1-3	February 1998	107p	variable loan options	

* Tax relief has not been taken into account. A typical higher rate taxpayer would have paid only 60p per pound invested because of tax relief. Most investors will have left the schemes this year but the schemes will continue to maturity. *Source: Johnson Fry*

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Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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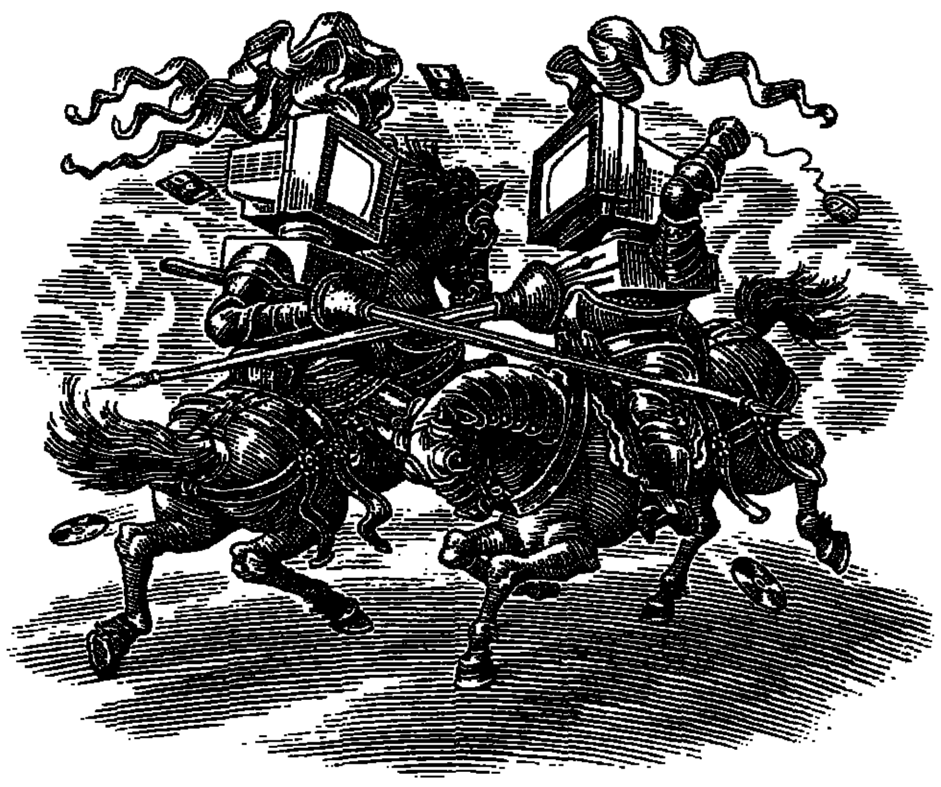
Household budgets turn automatic for the people



Rival computer groups are battling for a share of the personal finance software market

Personal finance for some people means throwing receipts and bank statements into a box and praying their account is not overdrawn. But for an increasing number of computer-literate folk, specialist software is keeping the bank at bay and helping them to get to grips with such time-consuming issues as pensions and tax self-assessment.

According to personal finance software companies, more than 1.1 million UK households have bought personal finance packages — more than have cable television. Some buyers will have tried the packages and reverted to paper. But others swear by products such as Microsoft Money, Intuit Quicken and Sage Instant Accounts, the three market leaders.

The typical personal finance software package helps people to budget and control family finances, automating just about everything you hate about financial management and even flashing reminders each time a bill needs to be paid, if a program is so set.

Small business owners and home workers who often find paperwork a burden can track VAT and foreign currency spending, print their own cheques from the packages and have the amount automatically recorded in the section for account details.

"What ifs" are also catered for. For example, an increase in school fees can be entered in, alerting the user that there will not be enough money available by the end of a given period to meet other bills.

In order to get started, a user will need at the very least a Windows personal computer or Macintosh computer with at least eight megabytes of Ram (random access memory) and a personal finance program, the cost of which starts at about £30.

The software needs to be loaded on to the computer. Initially, the program takes the user through a series of basic questions about earnings and expenditure. It then automatically collates the figures, and files them away in categories ready to be used or added to later.

By next year, users will also be able to use the software to dial into their banks from home 24 hours a day, check their balances and pay bills electronically in a computerised version of telephone banking. Microsoft says that its next version of Money, due out this year, will be "online banking ready".

In the United States, Intuit and Microsoft are locked in a battle to do deals with banks in which Quicken or Money is used on home computers allowing users 24-hour access to their banks. In the UK, many of the high street banks are testing PC home banking. Barclays is test running software that it wrote itself, though others will use Microsoft or Intuit products because so many customers already own that software.

Personal finance packages are not all good news. To be successful, a user must have enough self-motivation to enter financial information in the program. Users have been critical of both Microsoft Money and Intuit Quicken in particular for failing to provide more than "overgrown leaflets" as instruction manuals. To get help, they must use computerised manuals, which some find less "user-friendly" than paper.

In future, leading packages are expected to come to terms with the Inland Revenue's new self-assessment, the biggest change to the tax system in 50 years. Soon, users will be able at the push of a button to assemble the figures needed by the taxman.

The Sage Instant Accounting package, for example, is expected to be modified next year to help with self-assessment. Both Intuit Quicken and Microsoft Money include categories for tax-related entries.

For home users, either Quicken or Money will fulfil most needs. Small businesses would be advised to look at Sage Instant Accounting. It is worth noting, however, that where one program boldly goes, the competition will follow and those who wire up their finances are likely to find all of the leading packages up to the job.

DIANA MILLER

POSTMAN IN A PC WONDERLAND

Kevin Hayward, a Warwickshire postman and father of two, bought his first computerised personal finance package three years ago. He had read about Intuit's Quicken in a computer magazine and thought it might help to plan a tight budget. "With Quicken I'm in control of all my finances and I no longer get letters from my bank telling me I'm overdrawn," he said. "It acts as a diary, reminding me when payments are due and because it adds and subtracts all my incomings and outgoings it means that I don't make any mistakes anymore." He uses the software to track his mortgage, standing orders, direct debits and annual payments such as insurance and MOT and recently found the package useful when a computer magazine sent him a renewal subscription bill. "I did a search and found it wasn't due until January. Otherwise, I would have paid five months before it was due." Mr Hayward also uses the program's "what if" facility, which forecasts which months he will need to work overtime to make ends meet. Mr Hayward convinced Phillipa Reeve, his partner, to put her finances on the computer as well and the couple now set each other's reminders.

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Halifax Solid Gold (90 Day Notice)	2.75%	2.75%	3.05%	3.05%	3.80%	3.80%	4.30%	4.30%
Woolwich Premier 90 (90 Day Notice)	N/A	N/A	3.10%	3.10%	3.85%	3.85%	4.60%	4.60%

Source: Moneyfacts 17th September 1996

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* Gross. The annual rate of interest paid without deduction of lower rate tax to eligible non tax-payers.
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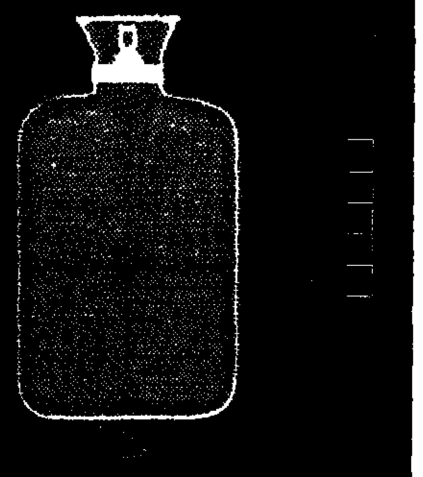

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Anne Ashworth investigates the disturbing issue of who will have the flotation proceeds from accounts opened for the handicapped

Disabled suffer in societies' shareouts

Disabled can bank on struggling on

From Mr A. Wright

Sir, Anne Ashworth's article headed "Disabled suffer in societies' shareouts" (August 24) reminded me of my own experience. After I became disabled, I could park outside the bank within my limited walking distance. I needed to use the counter facilities as I am unable to manage cash dispensing machines. When this branch closed, I was directed to one with a bus lane outside and nowhere to park, so I had to change banks.

A road improvement scheme has now made it impossible to get into this bank. However, with a switch card I can obtain cash for day-to-day small expenses from the supermarket, where there is always ample parking space.

This has avoided the need to search for a bank that I can enter and the possibility that further road improvements would simply reproduce the present position. I hope Mr David Dukes is successful in his attempt to attract government interest to the plight of his disabled daughter.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN WRIGHT,
3 Enderley Road,
Harrow Weald,
Middlesex.

PIA coping with complaints

From Mr S. Edell

Sir, The headline to Sara McConnell's article about the Ombudsman Bureau (Weekend Money, September 7) is "PIA admits complaints department is in chaos". The assertion is factually incorrect: it is also unsupported by the text which follows the headline. In reality, we are dealing with complaints in an orderly and effective manner.

It is true that we are suffering some delay, although not as much as is suggested in the article. Difficulties in matching resources to requirements are likely to occur in an organisation which is *demand* led and therefore unable to control its workload, particularly where there is little track record for guidance. These were temporarily exacerbated by the merger of complaints-handling schemes to which Ms McConnell refers. However, we have tackled the problem energetically and made much progress in recent months. This is a process we intend to continue until we are fully satisfied with the result.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN EDELL,
Ombudsman,
Personal Investment Authority Ombudsman Bureau Limited,
Third Floor,
Centre Point,
103 New Oxford Street, WC1.

Which? objectivity on its own product

From Professor P. Badham

Sir, Fears that the Consumers' Association would not be impartial about their own credit card have been confirmed in today's *Which?* where their own card is listed as a "Best Buy" for those who pay in full.

This verdict is arrived at by explicitly excluding from consideration the perks offered by other cards, details of which are on a factsheet for which one has to telephone to request but which is not printed in the magazine.

Yet, by excluding perks, all calculations of benefit are totally distorted.

For example, on *Which?*'s assumptions, a "usual payer" spends £2,700 per year on a card. If such a person used a card offering air miles as a perk, they could obtain £200 off a package holiday once every four years.

A benefit worth £50 a year clearly more than compensates for an annual charge of £12 per year.

Not to mention this and similar perks means that *Which?* has abandoned any objective comparison of the product that it purports to be evaluating.

Yours faithfully,
PROFESSOR PAUL BADHAM,
4 Coed Y Bryn,
Aberaeron,
Ceredigion.

Medical insurance not a perk

From Mr W. Deller

Sir, Anne Ashworth (Pensioners take on GEC over health benefits, August 31) refers to Plessey pensioners having been "given private medical insurance as a retirement perk".

In my case, which is that of a fairly typical Plessey pensioner, private medical insurance was available as an employment condition because it increased my effectiveness as an employee of the company. At a time of company rationalisation and site closure, the continuation of private medical insurance was offered, and accepted, as a condition of early retirement.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM DELLER,
42 Surley Row,
Caversham,
Reading, Berkshire.

Computer error compounded

From Ms J. Alexander

Sir, On Saturday, September 7, you published a letter from me concerning the sheer incompetence of Lloyds Bank when they charged me interest on a transfer that I had requested from one account to another, which they then failed to carry out.

I am sure your readers will be amused and frustrated to learn that I have now received notification that my account is to be further charged £20.31 for the ramifications of the original error.

I have been told that the computer is not geared to dealing with problems like mine!

Yours faithfully,
JULIE ALEXANDER,
50 Radnor Walk,
Chelsea,
SW3.

Where the cheque's in the photocopier

From Mr Hugh J. Davies

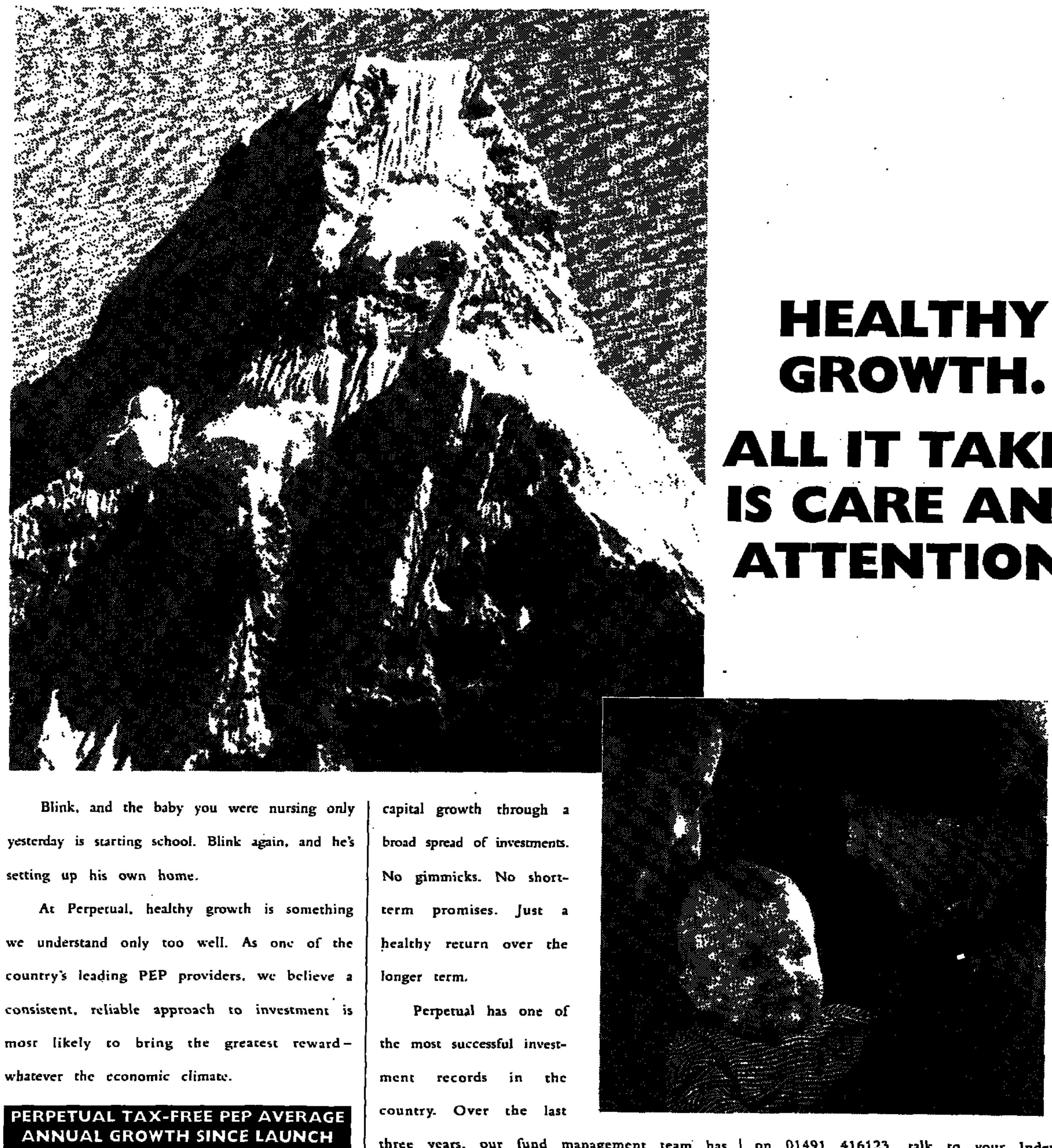
Sir, Another variation of the "cheque in the post" or "the puppy has chewed the chequebook" is the photocopy of the cheque "proving" that payment has been made.

Recently seeking a refund for goods not delivered, I enlisted the help of the magazine carrying the offending advertising.

After many weeks, they claimed I had got my money back as the smart alec running the show had sent them a photocopy of the cheque.

The fact that you don't even have to waste a blank cheque to work this ruse was a complete surprise to a national magazine. The trick must have been around since the week after the invention of the first Xerox machine.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH J. DAVIES,
Pen-y-Gongl,
Anglesey.



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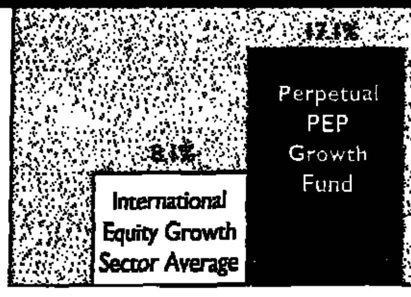

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FOOD

Paul Heiney on the art of baking bread like the Romans

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SHOPPING

Coffee tables with a tasteful new look

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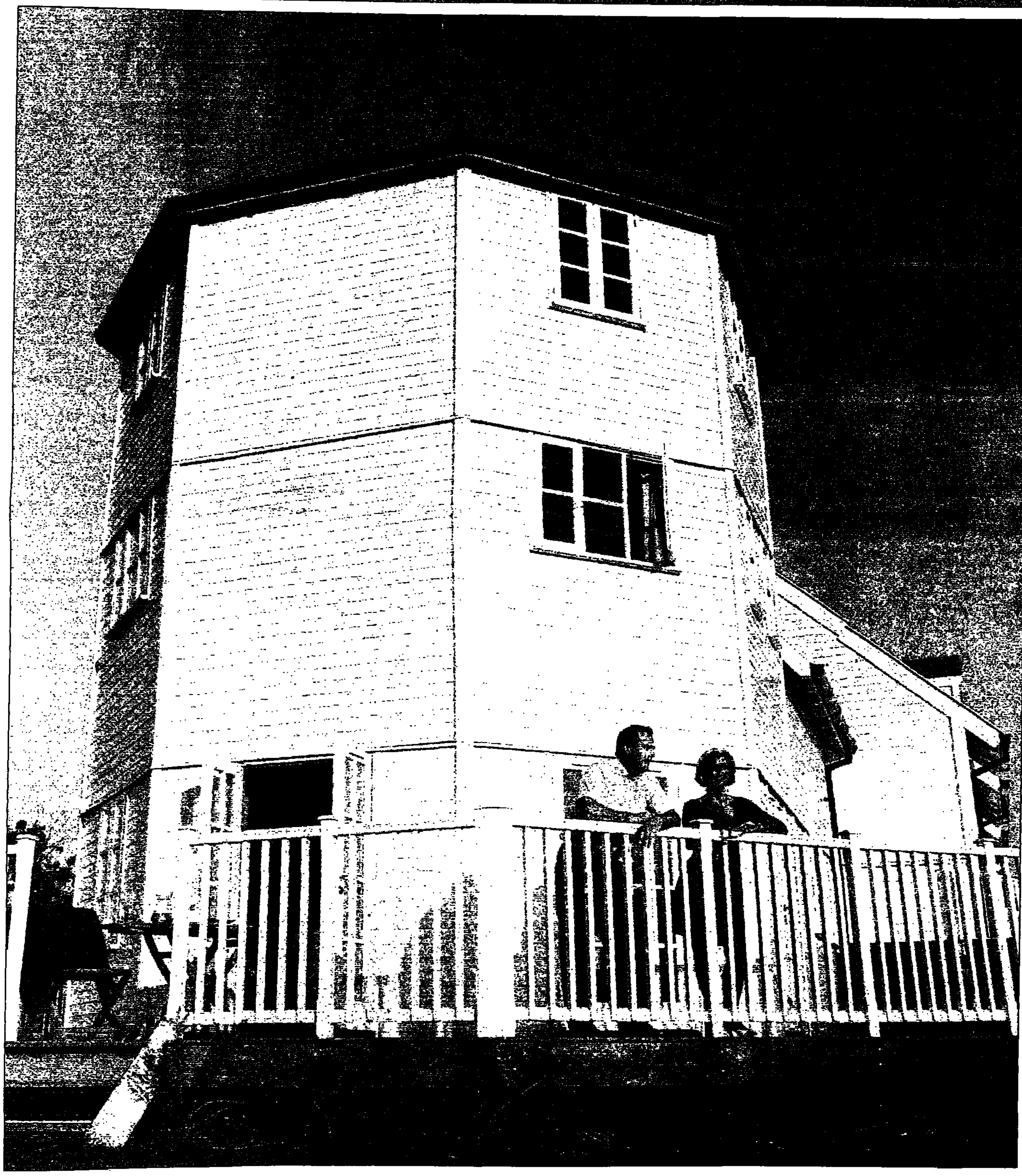
WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21 1996

WE'RE ALL SECOND-HOME OWNERS HERE



People who want to relax at the weekend now buy their country cottages brand new.

Peter Barnard reports

If watching the grass grow is about as much stress as you can handle at the weekend, there are places in the countryside where the pace of growth is even more relaxed than elsewhere. Developers who have set the latest trend in second homes have thought of everything. Yes, they even plant slow-growing grass. This keeps the lawn mower in the garden shed rather than racing along before some puffing executive who thought this was a weekend off. And the evidence is that the policy works, for slow-growing grass has become the curious emblem of a significant switch in the provision of second homes.

A cottage in the country used to mean just that: roses round the door, mice in the attic, leaks in the roof, dust, dirt, rot. People would return to the city on Sunday night with blistered hands and paint-streaked hair. They rushed back to the office on Monday morning to put their feet up. All that is changing. There is still demand for country cottages, but now the smart money is going into new ones.

However, there are two distinct trends within this new market, which can be defined as lifestyle homes and new-old homes.

People may not want to paint walls and scrub floors at the weekend, but many do want plenty of activity without the hassle of driving from place to place. Therefore developments, often built around lakes reclaimed from gravel pits, offer boating, fishing and other activities.

Isis Lakes, a Watermark development at South Cerney, near Cirencester, Gloucestershire, has most of the elements necessary for the trouble-free designer weekend. The homes are marketed as lodges. They do not pretend to be permanent homes and, indeed, planning regulations prevent their use in that way, but a second home can be used all-year as long as the owner has another, principal address.

"Turn left at the end of this road and keep an eye out for something that looks Dutch," a woman in South Cerney told me. From that description, there was no mistaking Isis Lakes, as the photograph here demonstrates: these are windmills minus the blades.

The other trend, for new-old homes, is very British: it serves our propensity for looking back in wonder. Millions of people with no real interest in classical music gather for the *Last Night of the Proms*, with its evocation of former glories. We buy new wood and painstakingly varnish it, the fastest route to a weathered appearance. This love of tradition seems to mean that we are suckers for the notion of a new house which arrives complete with its own history: age, literally, built in.

To explain how this oddity works we must consider that staple of building down the years, the humble brick. The thing about a new brick is that it is three inches in depth. But at Carter's Leaze, in Great Wolford, Warwickshire, where the houses are mostly built of newly quarried Cotswold stone, there are some most interesting garages, if you will accept for a moment that a garage can be most interesting.

These garages were constructed from bricks two and a half inches deep, reclaimed by Ivor Johnson and his brother Martin, the site's developers and builders. A two-and-a-half-inch brick is a pleasing sight: it looks old. These bricks used to be a warehouse near Manchester. It was demolished and Ivor bought the bricks, so that a victim of

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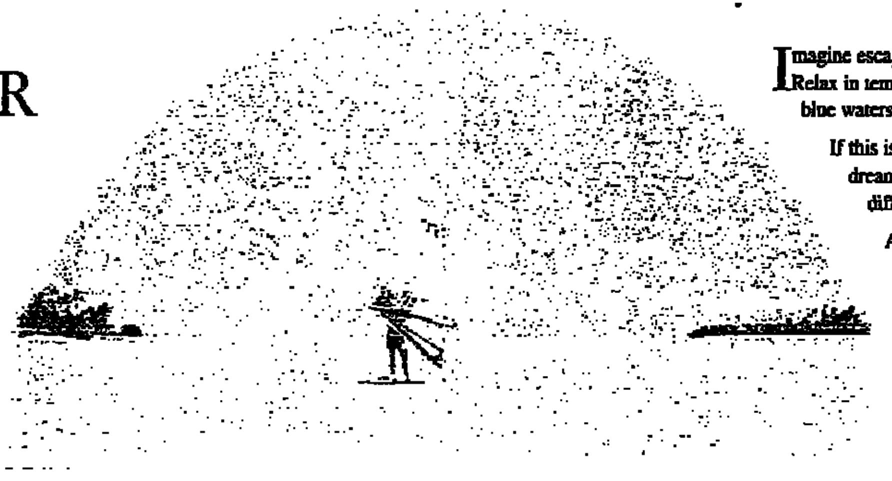

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'People love the idea of an old house – but not the reality of repairs'

Continued from page 1

industrial decline now gets a new life as a home for the middle classes in retreat from big cities.

"People love the idea of an old house," Ivor says, "but they aren't too fond of what that could mean. They buy an old house, but what if it needs £50,000 spending on the roof? With these homes, they know what they are getting: a new house with character but without the heartache."

The Johnsons are scavengers and proud of it. I was struck by the door knobs on the houses at Carter's Leaze. "Ah yes," Ivor says. "I met a chap who said he had a few door knobs in his back garden, so I went round to take a look. In the end they filled nearly three builder's vans; there were four tons of them. Now, sprayed with black paint, they look good as new."

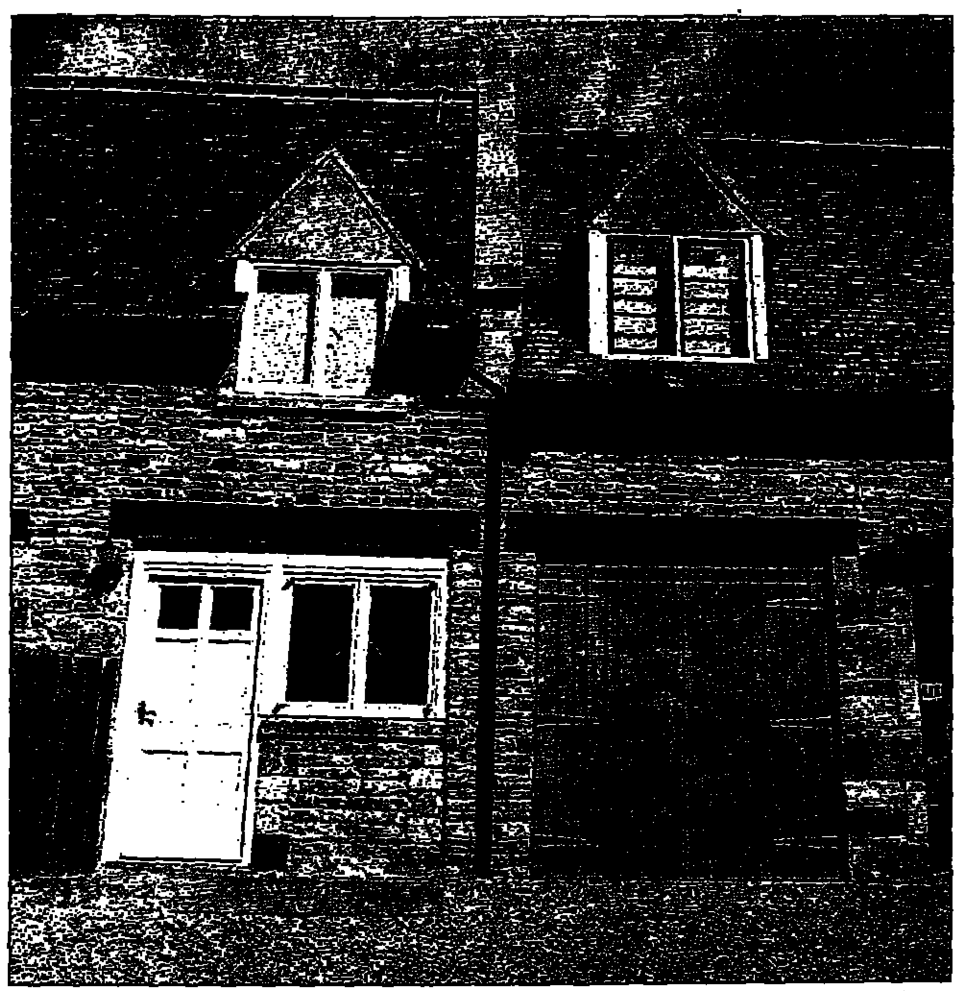
Then there are the internal doors. These came from an abandoned institution, possibly a children's home. Ivor bought 105 in a job lot. And the stone window sills? "Goodness knows how old they are, could be anything up to 200 years."

Of course, this policy makes the use of mullioned windows on such developments more or less *de rigueur*. The mullioned window is another icon of new-old building, another way to feel that we are living in the past in the present.

If all this sounds like building on the cheap, think again. There is a premium on this kind of material in good condition, and a lot of time and money go into scouring the country for suitable bits and pieces. It puts up to 50 per cent on the cost of building, but it must be worth it. Carter's Leaze, a development of 12 homes, was sold by the agents Knight Frank in eight weeks at prices from £120,000 (three bedrooms) to £225,000 (detached, four bedrooms).

Not that new trends mean that the first principles of second-home buying have been abandoned. David Fenton, of Knight Frank, handles Carter's Leaze and other projects in the Cotswolds. "The right location, as ever, is three parts of it. The second-home buyers here in the Cotswolds are not just from London, they come from Birmingham, Bristol and other cities. But they must be within striking distance of a motorway and the homes must have certain staples, mostly white goods in the kitchen. Ease of maintenance is vital, too."

The trend towards new-old housing has had side-effects. The most notable is the return of craftsmanship and an attendant continuity of employment in an industry where the workforce gives the appearance of having invented the word "itinerant". The Johnsons have two men who have worked for them for 20 years, and the need for skills not always apparent in most modern building raises satisfaction levels and encourages loyalty.



New properties at Carter's Leaze employ reclaimed bricks, doors and stone sills

Lifestyle developments are a more established sector of the second-homes market, and they are the most spectacular indicator of the current trend away from romance and towards realism.

Sean Fryer, of Watermark, took me round Isis Lakes in a golf buggy: how else? The lakes are stocked with trout and carp, Canadian canoes are pulled up on the banks for the use of residents. There are all-weather tennis courts and a croquet lawn. And there is 24-hour security. The development is in an 11,000-acre park but each segment is of a less daunting size.

This is a sanitised environment, not to all tastes. Yet the Watermark brochure evokes olde England: "The country cottage has come to represent a safe, unchanging, untroubled way of life; a time when summers were always long, the grass was always green." But the lodges at Isis are as far from the traditional cottage as the Prince of Wales is from endorsing the National Gallery extension.

Isis is a "managed development", meaning that in exchange for a management fee external maintenance is handled by the company (see box, right). Watermark admits to problems at Spring Lake, an earlier development near Isis, when repair work needed after the buildings settled was not done within the agreed six months of being sold. But the company says most of the work has now been done and the rest is "under control". It says there was "poor communication" with owners at Spring Lake, a lesson it claims to have learnt to the benefit of Isis residents.

The marketing is aimed mainly at people living in London. Watermark claims a 90-minute "easy drive" from the capital. Prices in Fisherman's Reach, the final part of the development, range from £79,900 (non-lakeside) to £99,000 (lakeside) for two-storey homes and £129,900 for a lakeside, three-storey home.

Peter and Barbara Crawford have owned what Barbara calls "our beach hut" at Isis for two years. They live in Kensington, west London, run their own businesses (he is an architect, she has an employment agency) and have children aged nine and seven. "We're just too busy to want to bother with working on a cottage at weekends," Mrs Crawford says. "So Isis is perfect for us and for the children, who have even stopped complaining about the fact that we chose not to have a television set."

The Crawfords found that, at first, most of the people at Isis had bought their lodges in order to let them out, which did nothing to create community spirit. "But now more and more of them are spending weekends there, the children make friends with other children and the families have started to arrange barbecues," Mrs Crawford says.

"If you buy in a traditional village there is always the 'incomers' label, which can make it difficult to become part of the community. But at Isis we are all in the same boat. A definite sense of community has developed."

Another way of looking at weekenders is through the eyes of their neighbours. Whereas Isis is all second homers, at Carter's Leaze, the split between permanent residents and weekenders is about 50-50. What do the former make of the latter?

John McKinlay, a 54-year-old retired headmaster, moved into his home last January. He is at home a lot and sees the comings and goings at weekends. "Second-homers have an ideal situation here, the same attractions as I was looking for: something that is both traditional and carrying the benefits of modern living. But there is not much interaction between the residents and the weekenders; we wave at them and pass on our way.

"But I think that is more the British way of things. The permanent residents talk to each other more often and the pub across the road is a good ice-breaker, though for the most part we believe in live and let live."

Clearly the second-homes market is going through radical change. The old image of the country cottage, in which rising damp and falling plaster were separated only by frantic and exhausted families wondering if this was really the best way to relax, is being replaced by a realistic response to the needs of the market. But then, when did developers ever let the grass grow under their feet?

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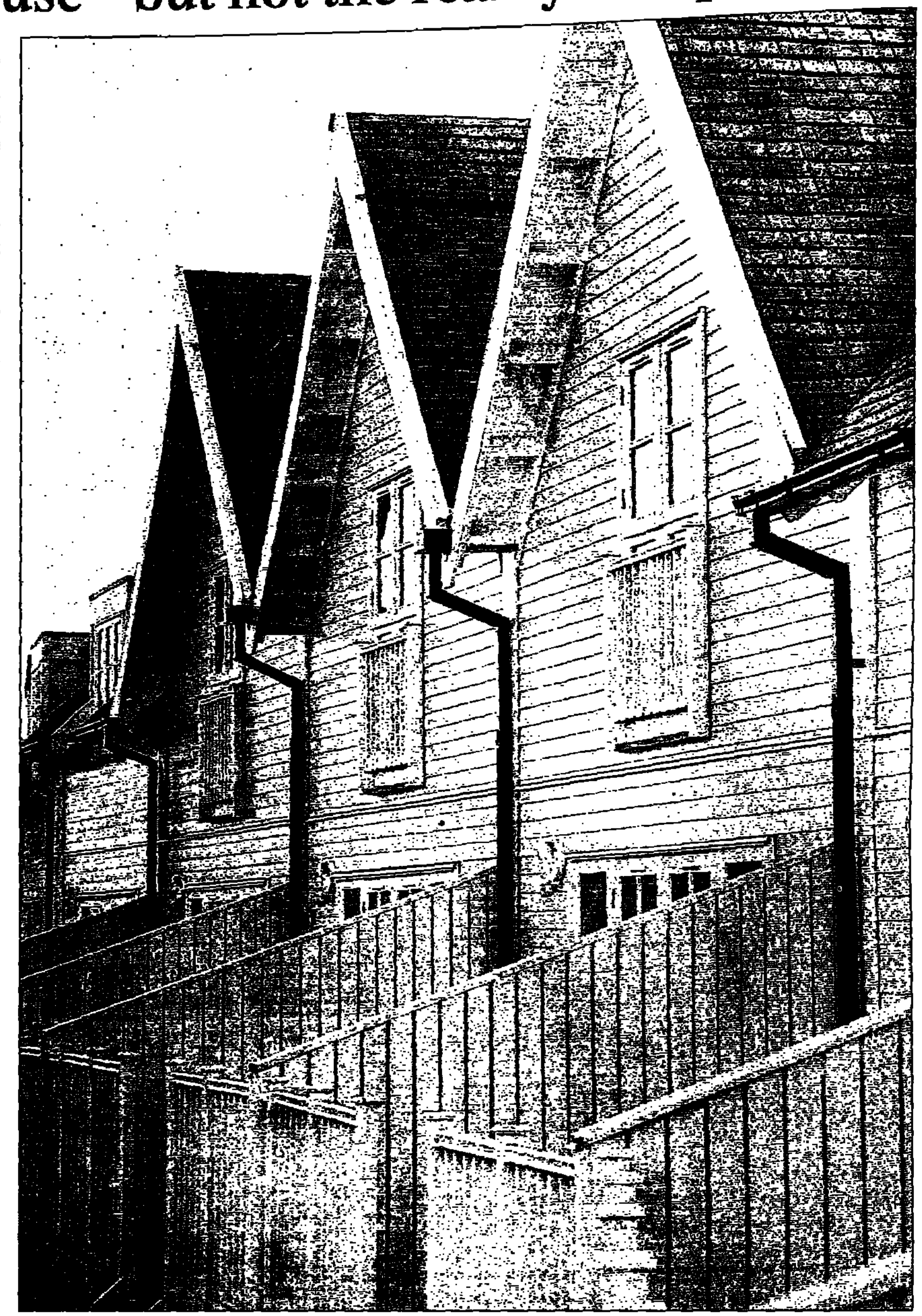

New-old homes, such as at Carter's Leaze (left), come with their own history literally built in. Lifestyle developments, such as Isis Lakes (right), offer country homes with sports facilities

Cover and photographs this page by PAUL TOZER

NEW COTTAGES IN THE COUNTRY

Local developers who are able to build "character" into new properties have noticed a steady custom from weekenders. Martin Johnson of Johnson & Johnson, Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire, explains: "In the late 1980s we were doing barn conversions but that became less attractive as planning permission became harder to get, so we started building new houses that look old.

"Now about 20 per cent of our properties sell to weekenders. The sort they want tend to be built out of old materials and look 200 years old although they are new. We get old materials from all over the country."

Typical of the new customers are Richard and Sandy Dale, who bought a three-bedroom cottage at Chandler's Reach, Itchenor, on the edge of Chichester Harbour, West Sussex, as a weekend home.

"We needed somewhere that was cheap and easy to maintain so that we could leave it on a Sunday night and just walk back in on a Friday," says Mr Dale, 33, a stockbroker, of Wimbledon, London. "We thought about a picture-postcard house but in the end bought a modern house, built by the developers Priestmere, of Chichester, that was maintenance and hassle-free rather than listed beauty.

"Our cottage doesn't look like a typical new house: it's in keeping with its surroundings, using local stone and, because we bought while it was being built, we chose our kitchen and bathroom fittings. Our four-year-old twin boys can run around more freely here."

Chandler's Reach is a 90-minute drive from south London, and half the 13 properties have been sold to weekenders, leaving just one three-bedroomed house, being offered at £169,500 by Jackson-Stops & Staff, Chichester.

Businessman Gareth Davies had been hunting for an old Cotswold cottage before he spotted the Johnson & Johnson development at Carter's Leaze, Great Wolford, Warwickshire.

"I had been looking for something old that had a sound structure that I could do up myself, but on this development it was all there. It is an idyllic location, 100 yards from a delightful pub, and has all the benefits such as central heating," says Mr Davies, who lives near Sutton Coldfield. "The bathroom is new but done in an old style. Everything we asked the builder to do, including converting one of the garages into a breakfast room, was done well.

"I don't think I've lost anything by not buying old, and buying new leaves the weekends free to enjoy."

Johnson & Johnson's latest development is at Burmington, near Shipston on Stour, where five houses are being built from natural stone or brick. They'll have four or five bedrooms and will be offered by Knight Frank's Oxford office at £195,000 to £240,000.

Knight Frank also sold three stone-built houses with natural stone fireplaces at Charter Court, in the Cotswold village of Northleach, Gloucestershire, built by Noralle, of Southam, Warwickshire, and priced at £135,000 to £175,000.

While other small builders are picking up on the trend of building new-old weekend cottages, Watermark aims to offer the ultimate in worry-free modern weekending. At its development at Isis Lakes, south of Cirencester, it employs full-time gardeners to trim the lawns. Service costs of about £2,000 a year also include an on-site manager, security and refuse collection, since the lodges are classed as non-postal, non-voting addresses, though they have 999-year leases.

All these properties have three bedrooms and two bathrooms, and free use of various sports facilities, including a golf club, tennis courts, a health and sport club, a trout lake, and watersports.

"Our typical buyers are people who live and work quite long hours in London and want a weekend retreat so they can leave work at 5pm and be in the country by 6.30pm, and planning their activities," says the company's marketing manager, Sean Fryer. "When they are not using them they can be rented out, giving people an extra income."

The sort of place to forget chores: a typical new-old country cottage retreat at the Carter's Leaze development

CHRISTINE WEBB

● Jackson-Stops & Staff: 01243 786316. Knight Frank, Oxford: 01865 790077. Noralle: 01926 814808. Watermark: 01285 862288. Johnson & Johnson: 01608 664060.

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Spelt flour produces better bread than ordinary wheat flour. It's high in protein, delicious and just like the Romans used to make

The cereal outstanding in its field

HOME MADE

Paul Heiney

Old farming instincts die hard, and so when I read about a cereal crop far more interesting than the dreary winter wheat which grows round here, which thrives on less fertile soils and needs less manufactured fertiliser, and moreover is ideal for organic growing because of its habit of sprouting tall and suppressing weeds, I start to get wistful.

It gets better. When milled and made into flour this crop produces bread which is higher in protein than a similar loaf baked with common wheat flour, and with higher concentrations of vitamins and minerals. It is called spelt, and although like all bread a spelt loaf contains gluten, growers say there is reason to believe it can be eaten by people who are normally gluten intolerant.

Once again, a possible solution to the problem of feeding ourselves while at the same time nurturing our land has turned up; not by looking forward to a technological future, but backwards to our forerunners. In the case of spelt, to the Romans. In my farming days, this would have had me dusting off the seed drill, harnessing the horses and trudging to the fields. Now, I let Doves Farm Foods do all the work.

Their bags of spelt flour look just like wholemeal; you can substitute spelt for wholemeal flour in any recipe if you want the nutty flavour and texture of which they boast. I was beguiled by the idea of this ancient flour, beloved of the Romans, writers of the Old Testament and, as late as the 19th century, the Germans. And, indeed, I found the recipe for Roman Army Bread irresistible. Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears of spelt and I will bake you a delicious loaf on which we can march.

I took a pound of spelt flour and added a teaspoon of salt and three tablespoons of olive oil. I mixed two teaspoons of active dried yeast (not very Roman, but handy) into warm water to which I had added a hefty spoonful of honey, and allowed it to froth. Then I mixed the lot together and produced a pleasant, slithery, pliable dough. I greased a large baking tray, put the dough on it, sprinkled it with more spelt flour, and put it away for half an hour to rise.

While waiting, it crossed my mind that when in Rome one should eat as the Romans, which sent me to my references. Here I discovered recipes more horrible than any on which I have ever set my eyes. I came, I saw, but not even my hardened stomach could conquer these. Where can I start? Perhaps with the stuffed dormice.

"Take two plump dormice for each guest, and gut and clean." (It does not say how you do this: with a crochet hook?) "Make a stiff stuffing of minced pork and the minced meat of other dormice. Pound this with pepper and pine kernels. When stuffed, sew up the mice, place in a shallow pan and cook in a slow oven." I have this image in my twisted mind of the neat and tidy Mary Berry showing us how to do it on one of her mid-morning television demonstrations: "Now just slice off those tails and pop them in the Aga to crisp." Ugh. While we are on matters Roman, and waiting for the bread to rise, do you want to hear about the boiled parrot? Why not? Once faced, you need never fear it again.

"Pluck, wash, truss and draw your parrot." (Who's not such a pretty boy now?) "Place in a pan and well cover with water to which may be added vinegar and a little dill. While the parrot is cooking, put pepper, caraway seed, coriander, rue and mint in a mortar and pound to a paste. Moisten with vinegar. Add dates well shredded. Remove the parrot from the pan and use some of the water in which it has boiled to thin the sauce. Thicken with cornflour."

To those of you wondering about the versatility of this recipe, let me tell you that "the same recipe can be used for flamingo". I am now of the firm belief that the letters SPQR carried on banners by Roman soldiers were an early form of fast-food sponsorship: Savoury Parrot Qwik-Roast.

My spelt loaf rose as well as any loaf I have ever made. No time in the Roman Army for a second kneading and rising: they had the Alps to cross. So I put it in the oven for about 35 minutes, using the hem of my toga to prevent my fingers burning on the hot oven door.

The result was a truly new taste: nutty as promised, satisfying but not too heavy, wonderful with honey: and as foretold on the packet, a spelt loaf leaves no crumbs when cut. It was moist, lighter than a normal wholemeal loaf and achieved without any of that heavy kneading or knocking back and waiting ages for the second rising. I could possibly have made it even lighter: on reading the instructions again I suspect I may not have added enough water. The dough is suppose to fall onto the baking sheet like a flattish ciabatta. Mine looked like a cottage loaf.

But I liked it, and it was a really new taste in bread. It was just as good the next day too. I shall try it again. Spelt flour is available in most health food shops, by mail order from Doves Farm Foods, and from selected branches of Sainsbury's, where I shall take great pleasure at the butchery counter asking for Parrot-burgers and Oven-Ready Dormice.

● *Doves Farm Foods, Salisbury Road, Hungerford, Berks RG17 ORF (01488 684880).*

FAST FOOD

How to be a pasta master in a hurry

NO-COOK DINNER
Serves six

Parma ham, mozzarella and red-leaf salad
Tagliatelle with creamy pesto
Boozy blackberry fool

This dinner is great for a day when you have to shop in your lunch hour or on the way home and get back just 15-30 minutes before your guests are due to arrive. The only cooking required is boiling the pasta to go with a sauce made by mixing ready-made pesto, crème fraîche and the basic ingredients of pesto — basil, pinenuts and parmesan.

■ Make blackberry fool
Mix 600g (1lb 5oz) blackberries (keep a handful for decoration), 400g (14oz) ready-made custard, 4tbs caster sugar and 1tbs port in a food processor. Taste and add more sugar if you want, as blackberries vary in sweetness. Put in 6 bowls or a serving bowl and decorate with whole berries.

■ Make parma ham and mozzarella salad
Put 250g (9oz) prepared salad, preferably one with some red leaves such as radicchio and oak leaf lettuce, around the outside of a large serving plate. Put 12 slices (about 140g/5oz) of parma ham in the middle and arrange 250g (9oz) mozzarella, cut into 12 slices, in the centre. Make a dressing of 3tsp grainy mustard, a squeeze of lemon and 6tbs olive oil and put to one side.

■ Make tomato salad
Slice three huge tomatoes. Put in a shallow serving dish and sprinkle with 1tsp sugar, 2tsp balsamic or other mild vinegar and some black pepper.

■ Serve parma ham and mozzarella salad
Five minutes before serving the salad, put a large pan of salted water on to boil. Drizzle the dressing over salad but do not mix. Let the guests help themselves and as they do, put 500g (1lb 2oz) green and yellow tagliatelle in the water to cook for around ten minutes.

■ Serve pasta
Drain the pasta and put back in the pan. Mix with 400ml crème fraîche and 5tsp pesto, so the cream melts on the pasta. Divide among 6 plates and scatter over 100g (4oz) pinenuts and 12 roughly torn basil leaves. Using a potato peeler, pare shavings off a piece of parmesan to decorate. You can also serve this in one large bowl for guests to help themselves. Serve with the tomato salad.

■ Serve blackberry fool
Serve with shortbread.

HATTIE ELLIS

Shopping List

Fruit and vegetables
600g (1lb 5oz) blackberries
250g (9oz) prepared salad
squeeze of lemon
3 very large tomatoes
12 basil leaves

Meat
12 slices parma ham
(about 140g/5oz)

Dairy
400g (14oz) ready-made custard
250g (9oz) mozzarella
400ml crème fraîche
small piece parmesan

Store cupboard
4tbs plus another 2tsp caster sugar
3tsp grainy mustard
6tbs olive oil
2tsp balsamic vinegar
500g (1lb 2oz) green and yellow tagliatelle
6tsp pesto
100g (4oz) pinenuts
1 packet shortbread

Drink
1tbs port
a selection of good red and white Italian wines

TONY WHITE/TIMES IMAGING

A goose, traditional fare at Michaelmas, is cheaper and less fatty than at Christmas. It's wonderful served with Irish potato and apple stuffing

Cook your goose

DIGEST

Fiona Beckett

ALTHOUGH goose is indelibly linked in the public mind with Christmas, it is actually more traditional to serve it at the feast of Michaelmas, which takes place next Sunday, September 29 (or, if you live in Norfolk, on October 11 — they refused to alter the date when the calendar changed).

The story goes that Queen Elizabeth I was feasting on goose when she heard the news of Drake's victory against the Armada and was so overcome with emotion that she decreed (as Queens do) that roast goose should henceforth be eaten on that day. A rather less colourful explanation was that Michaelmas was one of the traditional quarter days when crafty and impoverished peasants would take their rapacious landlord a goose in the hope that he wouldn't put up the rent.

The advantage of eating goose at this time of year is that it is svelter than at Christmas, not yet having acquired the extra layers of fat it needs to protect it from the cold. Judy Goodman of Goodman's Geese says it is milder and less rich than at Christmas. "It's lovely to eat it with the new crop of apples which are at their freshest and crispest." Also good is the Irish potato and apple stuffing, which basically involves adding 2lb of mashed potato to a pound each of stewed apples and onions. You can find the *full recipe in Darina Allen's* excellent *Irish Traditional Cooking*, which is published by Kyle Cathie at £19.99.

A goose is also cheaper now than at Christmas because the producer does not have to feed it for another three months. Judy Goodman charges £5.70 per kilo (£2.59 a lb for the non-metricated) compared with £6.24 (£2.84) in December — the average weight at this time of year being about 4.5kg (10-11lb). If you're in Malvern this weekend you can buy one from her at the Malvern Autumn Show, otherwise ring her on 01299 896272 or her sister, Ann Botterill, who also rears geese, on 01476 870394. For other producers contact the British Goose Producers Association on 0171-240 9889.

Best bread

"DEVON" and "focaccia" are not words you normally associate with each other but I recently tasted the best focaccia I've eaten outside Italy from the Crosse Farm Bakery near Cheriton Bishop, Devon (01647 24442). Unlike most supermarket focaccia, *which has the taste and texture of cotton wool, it is light* and flavoursome and stuffed with rosemary, sun-dried tomatoes, olives and sunflower and pumpkin seeds.

Before you say it's all very well for the residents of Cheriton Bishop, the good news is that the baker, Harriet Helliwell, does mail order (the minimum is eight 800g loaves, which cost £24 plus £8 p&p). Even better news is that she will make extra large ones to order for parties. Either way you can freeze them.

Book early

INCIDENTALLY if you have ambitions to knock up a focaccia yourself you can find a smashing recipe in *One Year at Books for Cooks No 2*, the latest anthology from Books for Cooks, the west London cookery bookshop. Basically, it is a sample of the books the staff have liked best, tried and tested in the kitchen at the back of the shop.

Other exotic and enticing recipes include tomato and sweet pepper marmalade tart, lamb loin with roast beetroot and radish tzatziki, and white chocolate Sauternes cake, for which recipe alone I would pay the £3.99 which they charge for the whole volume. Ring them on 0171-221 1992.

As nice as pie

AT Marks & Sparks there are signs of a backlash against the tidal wave of lime and coriander that swamped the shelves this summer. One of the best-selling new lines this autumn is a roast pork pie in gravy, which could have hailed from a 1950s tearoom.

In fact it was a happy accident. Because the pie department has been frantically seeking alternatives to beef, they have been encouraging staff to come up with old regional recipes. The roast pork pie was one. Another, suggested by the staff at the Newcastle store, which apparently sells more pies than any other M&S in the country, is cheese and onion pie squares.

Further nursery-style favourites will follow. In the next few weeks you'll be able to buy lamb and pea mash pie, chicken and vegetable-filled Yorkshire pudding pies and an M&S invention which they are very excited about — the crisp-crust pudding.

Curry trip

LEICESTER might not immediately strike you as the obvious venue for a gastronomic weekend but if you're a curry lover you need look no further. The local tourist board (slogan: "Leicester — a city full of surprises") has come up with the rather smart idea of taking advantage of the city's large Asian population by instituting an Asian Cuisine Weekender Break starting from £122.50 (depending on which hotel you choose).

For this you get dinner at restaurants — one Gujarati (a vegetarian meal), one Punjabi, the chance to talk about the dishes and look behind the scenes, a visit to the Asian shopping district and a one-day cookery course at the Asian cookery school. The first weekend will be from October 18-20 with others in November, January and February. Ring Leicester Promotions (0116 285 6734) for details.

If you are in Leicester try to fit in a trip to the local market, which I remember from researching street markets a couple of years ago as one of the best in the country. Don't miss the fish stall run by John Heath, a former policeman, whatever you do.

Pep talk

HOT NEWS in *The Grocer* of an exciting addition to the Peperami market (Peperami, for the uninitiated among you, being a snack sausage you chew like gum). The turkey-flavoured Peperami "Gobbler" is "shorter and thicker [than, presumably, the original] and is pitched at white meat-eaters and women". TV ads, starting in October, feature the slogan: "It's a bit of all right." Actually I think I might just manage to resist it.

● Last week I misled you about that naughty-but-nice Dulce de Leche caramel spread. It contains a modest 1,386 calories a jar, not the wildly reckless 5,800 calories I had wrongly calculated.

More food and drink in the Magazine

SPLASHES OF COLOUR FOR YOUR GARDEN POND Page 5

CHOCOLATE BOX

CHOCOLATE truffles are rich, infatuating little follies, and so-named because when dusted in cocoa powder they resemble those rare little gems of fungus and are similarly precious to all lovers of good food. Once you have mastered this simple recipe, which makes about 85, and perhaps used cocoa powder to finish them off, you might feel brave enough to have a go at dipping in *couverture*.

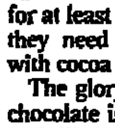
1lb best bitter plain chocolate
(such as Menier)
½ pint whipping cream
2fl oz rum or brandy
cocoa for rolling

Break the chocolate into tiny pieces. In a saucepan, bring the cream to a rolling boil and add the chocolate, immediately turning down the flame to a

Blend thoroughly until all the chocolate is melted. Take off the heat and transfer to a large mixing bowl. Leave to cool at room temperature which will take *at least one* to one and a half hours.

There are two ways of continuing:
(a) Use an electric hand whisk (you can use a balloon whisk but you need muscles of iron) to whisk the mixture to the consistency of a whipped cream — *no more* or it becomes unmanageable and sets before you have a chance to continue. It is better to stop whisking when it is still soft as it soon sets.

Spoon the mixture into a 14in piping bag with a ½inch nozzle and pipe 1½inch truffle spheres onto a baking sheet covered in cling film, or waxed paper. Refrigerate for an hour. (This is my favourite method and I think by far the best.)
(b) When the mixture has set, use a teaspoon to spoon-out bitesize portions, rolling them into balls in the palms of your hands, dusted with icing sugar to prevent sticking. This takes longer than process (a) but is just as good.



AT THIS stage, you can coat them in chocolate — but do this only after practice beforehand — or you can roll the truffles in cocoa powder, icing sugar, chopped nuts or chocolate "vermicelli". They will keep for at least a week. If at the last minute they need tarting up, sprinkle them with cocoa powder from a tea strainer.

The glory of using the best possible chocolate is that, whatever the truffles look like, they will taste wonderful. If you have any problems write to me care of Weekend at *The Times*.

SARA JAYNE

● *The author is one of Britain's leading chocolate cooks.*

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GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q My 20-year-old Victoria plum tree is cropping well but the leaves on some branches have become brown-spotted and holed. I have been picking off and burning the affected leaves. Can you tell me what this is? — C. Plumb, Sheffield.

A This sounds like shot-hole disease, which attacks plums, peaches and cherries. The patches develop into holes. The problem is not serious, and is usually seen on weak trees. Feed your tree next spring by making crowbar holes 9in deep, 1ft apart around the root system perimeter and filling them with Growmore. Mulch it, too.

Q I have an old, fertile mulberry tree almost 30ft high. A few years ago I felled a cherry which was shading it on one side, since when it has sprouted a dense growth of shoots from the main trunk, which is now hidden during summer. I want to remove these shoots to reveal the bark, but is this wise? — T. Allen, Carlisle.

A The shoots sprouting from the trunk may be the result of increased light or of incipient senility of the whole structure. You can cut them off, saving the odd one to fill gaps in the canopy where the cherry tree had shaded it. But at 30ft your mulberry is too tall and too old. Think about reducing it if you want it to be a rugged specimen in 50 years.

Q Nine months ago I moved into a house with a neglected garden with 12ft-high walls. The garden is infested with slugs and snails, which I catch and throw over the walls. Do these pests have a homing instinct and climb back over? There are just as many now as when I started. — Mrs P. Goddard, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

A Who lives next door, I wonder? Do they throw them back? Slugs and snails are efficient reproducers. They are also capable of slithering back over the wall, but not from a homing instinct. It takes time to reduce slug and snail populations. When it happens it will be the result of cultivation and hygiene not enforced aeronautics.

Q *In June I sowed a packet of winter-flowering pansies.* They were planted out in July, since when they have bloomed prolifically. I am concerned that they will fail to flower in late winter/early spring as they should. Should I shear the heads off? — J. Smith, York.

A Winter pansies are bred to keep flowering at low temperatures so there is no need to worry. Keep up some dead-heading to divert their energy from seed production, and go over them at the end of the autumn flowering.

- *Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

Something to crow about

HOMESTYLE

These scarecrows are almost lifesize and wear dungarees and T-shirt (summer) or jacket (winter). They include fabric birds and cost £85 each from Scarcity of Scarecrows

Birds are not always welcome visitors to the garden. Jane Owen looks at a variety of devices that will scare the scavengers away

Beatrix Potter's scarecrow in *Peter Rabbit*, clothed in the rabbit's finest blue jacket and with his polished shoes dangling from its stick arms, served as a handy resting place for birds between feasts on Mr McGregor's vegetable garden. It is a vision of bitter truth to many who have tried using a scarecrow to deter birds and one that strikes gloom into the heart of most gardeners.

Shooting is out of the question, however murderous you feel when a pigeon smacks its beak over your newly-sewn seeds or plump blackcurrants, and the loud cannon-style bird scarers used by farmers are expensive and unlikely to endear you to the neighbours.

Denys and Marjorie Randolph have had many of these problems at their 14-acre vineyard in Oxfordshire, where they grow grapes for Downs Edge wine. Shooting is allowed in parts of the vineyard away from the road, but what was meant to be a quiet retirement project has turned into a battle of ingenuity against pigeons and starlings which would have munched through nearly £1,000 worth of grape if not for the Randolphs' bird-scaring methods.

They started with scarecrows; not any old scarecrows but lifesize plywood cut-outs of gunmen, butts at the shoulder and a length of pipe for the barrel, should the birds be in any doubt. Mr Randolph cut out the models and his wife painted them in country clothes.

After a few days the birds perched happily along the gun barrel and passing bus passengers called the police to complain that the Randolphs were shooting in areas likely to be dangerous to the public.

Then Garfield-style balloons — black balloons, painted with a cat's face — were filled with helium and tied at the end of each row of vines. Mrs Randolph says these balloons were effective but burst so often that it took much time and money to constantly refill them.

Desperation began to set in. The Randolphs cut out a tiger shape from an 8ft by 4ft piece of plywood and painted it to glow brightly — fearfully even — in the middle of the vineyard. The birds treated it like an ornament. Meanwhile, Dave Kear, who helps Mr Randolph on the vineyard, was on shooting duty at a nearby farm when something leapt at him, and narrowly missed being shot. It was a Scarey-Boy and it scared the birds as well as the gunman.

Scarey-Boy deflates noisily

Scarey-Boy is a mass of limp plastic which inflates every few minutes to 3ft 6in, arms outstretched, making a screaming noise. Then it deflates, noisily and lies doggo until the next blast of air from its battery-powered motor. It is ingenious but expensive — prices are from £235 for the Boy version to £375 for a larger model (5ft 6in) called Scarey-Man Fall-Guy; plus £50 for the rechargeable battery. Mr Randolph is hoping to get one this Christmas to use next year. Meanwhile, he has worked up such a convincing impression of Scarey-Boy that he might find himself fulfilling the function personally until harvest time.

At a less dramatic level, humming tape is usually effective and a lot cheaper at about £4 for 30m (100ft) from garden centres. The green plastic tape, about half a centimetre wide, is tied washing-line style between poles over kitchen gardens where the crops run in rows. Even a breeze makes the tape vibrate and create curious Aeolian harp-style music, which drifts across the garden and alarms birds.

Netting is another possibility for small areas and it comes in pre-cut sizes from most garden centres; for example, 10m by 4m (32ft by 13ft) costs £14. Cats keep birds away, too, and a small bell attached to their collar warns feeding birds of their arrival and protects the birds from being killed.

Or you could try homemade scarers, flashing their no-go message to the hungry birds, such as gaily coloured foil rectangles or milk bottle tops attached to string and tied to the top of poles.

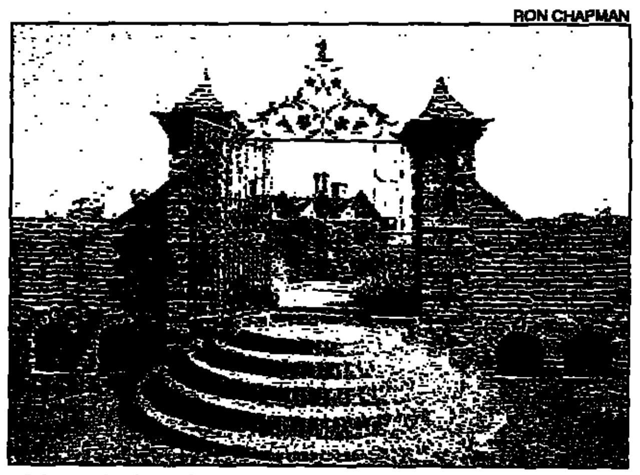
Those whose gardens are populated by birds made nervous by scarecrows can add this year's most voguish ornament to their gardens: a ready-made scarecrow with a choice of clothes. Made by a company called Scarcity of Scarecrows, they cost £85. The smiling manikin, nearly lifesize and with fashionably cropped straw hair, can model either a summer T-shirt and dungarees or, for winter, a jacket and dungarees.

- *Scarey-Boy and Scarey-Man by mail order from Clarratts, Toseland Hall, Toseland, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE19 4RU (01480 880242).*
- *Scarcity of Scarecrows, Oakland Cottage, Greenway Lane, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL52 6LA (01242 239071).*
- *For visits to the Randolph's vineyard call 01491 834802. The grapes from the vineyard are used to make Downs Edge wine, £5 from Fullers.*

HOMES & GARDENS

Gardens to Visit

RON CHAPMAN



The walled garden at Packwood House in Warwickshire

Arbigland, Kirkbean, Dumfries and Galloway (01387 880283).

Off A710, 14 miles southwest of Dumfries. Open Tues-Sun to end of Sept, 2-6pm. £2, children 50p (under fives free).

ARBIGLAND's garden maximises the relationship of the elegant 18th-century house and the wonderfully unspoilt coastal position nearby where a secluded sandy beach looks out over the Solway Firth. The link between the house, sheltered from wind by mature trees, and the beach is the Broad Walk, which leads between more fine trees, downward until the seaside destination is revealed. Progressing down the Broad Walk, visitors can choose a selection of smaller paths that lead off to enclosed woodland gardens, one a water garden, another planted with acers of unusual size. Their autumn foliage is a highlight at Arbigland from now until October. The garden's position benefits from the mild winters of Scotland's south-west coast and there is ample evidence of benign conditions among the ornamental trees and shrubs. Late-summer and autumn flowering varieties such as eucryphias, with their creamy flowers offset by evergreen foliate, make an autumn visit especially worthwhile.

Packwood House, Lapworth, Solihull, Warwickshire (01564 782024).

On A3400, two miles east of Hockley Heath. Open Wed-Sun to end of Oct, 12.30-4.30pm (1.30-6pm to end Sept). £2.

PACKWOOD's charm has remained undimmed, perhaps because it is not an expansive country garden that looks out on a grand landscape, but instead a place of greater age, dating from the 17th century when gardens were symbolic. Indeed, there are few places where the visitor feels so strongly that the garden is telling a story: clipped yew trees stand around a mount with clipped box and a spiral path leading to the top covered by an umbrella of yew. House and garden owe much of the preservation of original features and architecture, such as the terrace running between brick gazebos that overlook the walled garden, to the care during the 1930s of G. Baron Ash, who subsequently gave the property to the National Trust. They have developed the more decorative garden features. The best time to visit is a damp autumn day when the feeling of enacting a scene out of Bunyan is intense.

University of Durham Botanic Garden (0191-374 7971).

One mile from the centre of Durham, off A167 at Cock o'North roundabout (sign Durham 1, then Hollingside Lane). Open: 10am-5pm to Oct 31: then afternoons only until end of Feb 1997. Free.

ENGLAND's rich array of botanic gardens is full of surprises and at this, the most northerly in the country, there is much to enjoy. Only established in 1970, it is one of the youngest and the original intention was always to combine horticultural interest with low maintenance. As a result much of the 18-acre site on a south-facing slope is given over to grass with specimen trees and groups of shrubs. Since 1980 an arboretum of American trees has been developed with fine examples of Lodgewood pine and Californian redwood already well established. Beside a pond, from which the water flows into a rill, is the heather garden that looks good from now through into winter, while two glasshouses with tropical and desert plants have rare exotics such as an enormous pawpaw tree. One of the most recent and visually pleasing additions to the university is the Prince Bishop garden containing six wooden figures that were originally made for the Gateshead Garden Festival.

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Water lovers prove a moveable feast of colour

Stephen Anderton

solves the problem of when to lift and when to leave cannas

Ian and Joyce Cooke, who hold the National Collection of cannas

Where should you grow cannas? There are options. Picture hot, city squares in middle Germany and civic planters brimming with red cannas, all flapping purple foliage and scarlet flowers, like a cross between a banana and a gladiolus. Then picture the greeny-grey leafed, yellow-flowered *Canna glauca* growing in the water of a Sussex pond.

I am tempted to write that it is only *C. glauca* which should be grown in water, and then I hear of people growing a variegated, ordinary hybrid canna in water, and of a gardener in Exeter, Devon, who grows the ordinary, bronze-leafed, red-flowered cannas in his pond, and leaves them there all winter.

Cannas in general require plenty of water and a rich soil. But *C. glauca* is usually the one thought of as a potential "water canna". And what a good plant it is: such broad glaucous foliage is always useful in a garden, rather like the bloomy, sea-green foliage of *Melianthus major*, *Rudbeckia maxima* or *Nicotiana glauca*.

C. glauca has a spike of demure, pale yellow flowers, clenched tightly to the stem, and the whole plant can rise to 6-7ft tall.

Ian Cooke, who holds the National Collection of cannas at his nursery, Brockings Exotics, near Launceston, Cornwall, grows *C. glauca* in soil, but is aware of the plant's success in water. A planting depth of not more than 6in below water level seems to keep it happy.

But what an addition to waterside marginal planting cannas could be. At Longwood Gardens in America, famous for its computer-co-ordinated music and fountains, Robert Armstrong started hybridising *C. glauca* in the 1970s, and there are now several hybrids gaining ground in Britain.

C. glauca, from the West Indies and South America, is taller than most of the hybrids. The variety 'Ra' is lemon yellow, darker than the species, and grows to about 5ft. 'Endeavour', a soft pink, and 'Taney', a burnt orange, also grow to about 5ft. 'Erebus', a salmon pink, grows to about 3ft.

C. glauca and its hybrids are less clump-forming than the usual *C. indica* hybrids. Instead, they throw out long, brittle rhizomes 6-9in under the soil surface (or water), which can spring up a couple of feet away from the parent stem. Consequently it is less easy to persuade the roots into a pot for selling.

But wouldn't it be exciting to establish a colony of it in a pond, leaving it there through the winter? If *C. indica* can survive a winter under water, then surely *C. glauca* ought to. A sideshoot or two lifted in autumn and stored indoors would act as an insurance policy.

Whether in soil or water, if cannas of any variety are to be taken in for the winter they should be lifted after flowering in autumn, the tops cut down, and the roots kept dark and dry, but just short of shrivelling. Then the roots should be divided in March or April, and repotted, each budded rhizome with a length of root being capable of making a new plant.

The plants can then be grown on under glass, ready for planting out when the danger of frost is past, and can be in flower by the beginning of July. Good light levels early in the year are important.

The canna root system starts into life in spring from the rhizome, without the help of last year's roots. Nevertheless, there is usually a gain in stature from any plant left *in situ* over the winter, so long as it continues to be well fed, and is divided once the soil is exhausted.

In *The English Flower Garden* of 1883, William Robinson wrote that "cannas, protected by a coating of litter, have been left out in Battersea park through severe winters, and during the unfavourable summer of 1867 attained a height of nearly 12ft".

It is is important to keep the rhizome below the frost penetration level. In soil, a thick layer of old compost, mulch or leaf litter will suffice to insulate the roots. But this covering needs to come off in spring and the plant should be encouraged to reach up for the light as soon as the frosts permit.

In water, the roots ought to be safe from frost at 6in deep, especially in milder gardens. Whether you choose to try them as permanent marginal planting, or plunged into water (in baskets) for the summer, there is room for experimentation and some attractive results.

● *Ian Cooke's National Collection of cannas is held at his nursery, Brockings Exotics, Petherwin Gate, North Petherwin, Cornwall PL15 8LW (01566 785533); open by appointment only. Send three first-class stamps for a catalogue.*

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Take cuttings of penstemons and perennial wallflowers, pushing them in around the edge of a 6in-pot, to be potted on in spring as replacements for old stock.*
- *Bring potted azaleas indoors to a cool greenhouse. Keep moist and light, and start to feed only when the flowerbuds start to swell.*
- *Start a new compost heap with the first autumn leaves. Cut down the tops of herbaceous plants and annuals. Dust with lime.*
- *Light coverings of leaves on lawns may be removed with a rotary mower, which cuts them up and speeds rotting.*
- *Check that summer growth has not tightened tree ties around young trunks; adjust as necessary.*

HOUSE HUNTERS' GUIDE TO BUYING ABROAD Page 6

TIM CUFF/APEX

Canna collection (left to right): red-pink 'Endeavour', lemon yellow 'Ra' and burnt orange 'Taney'

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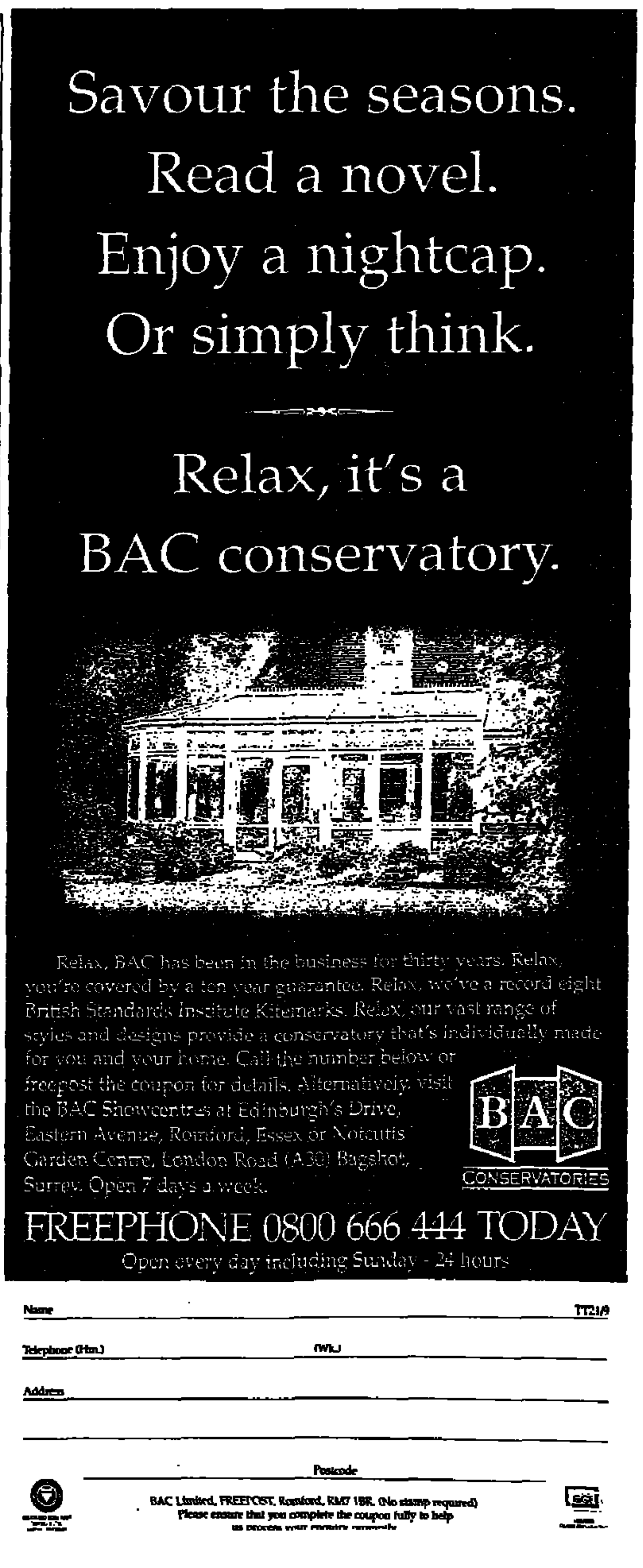

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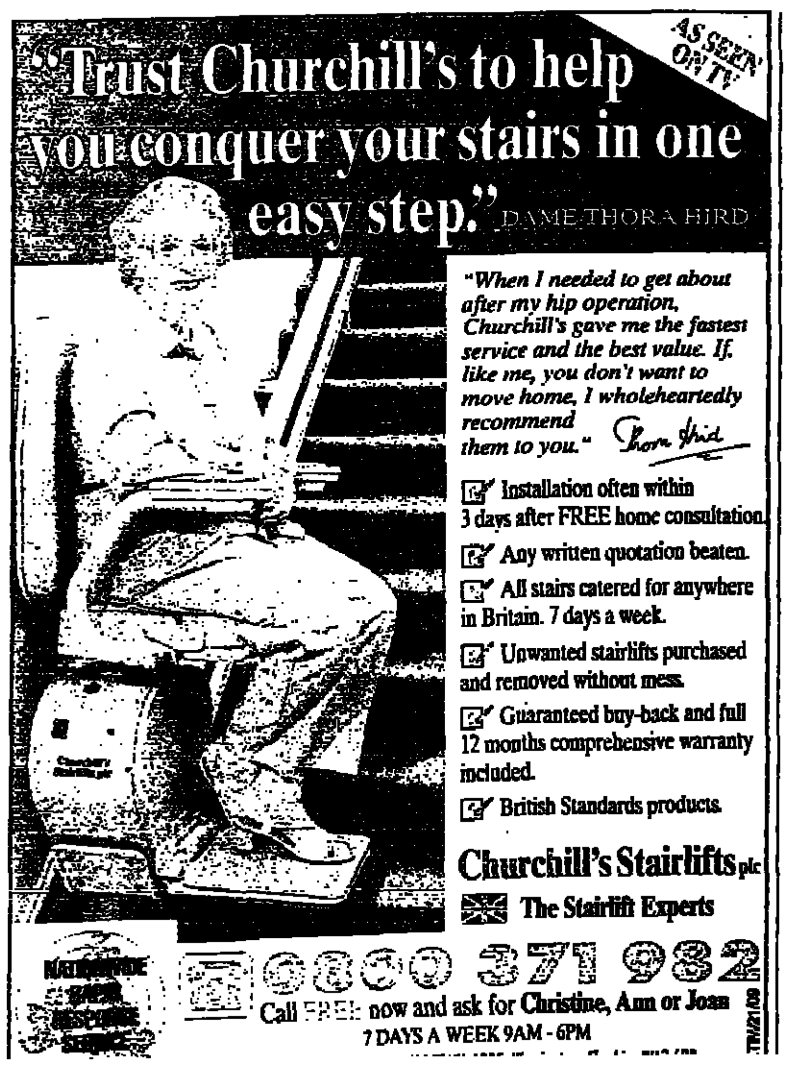

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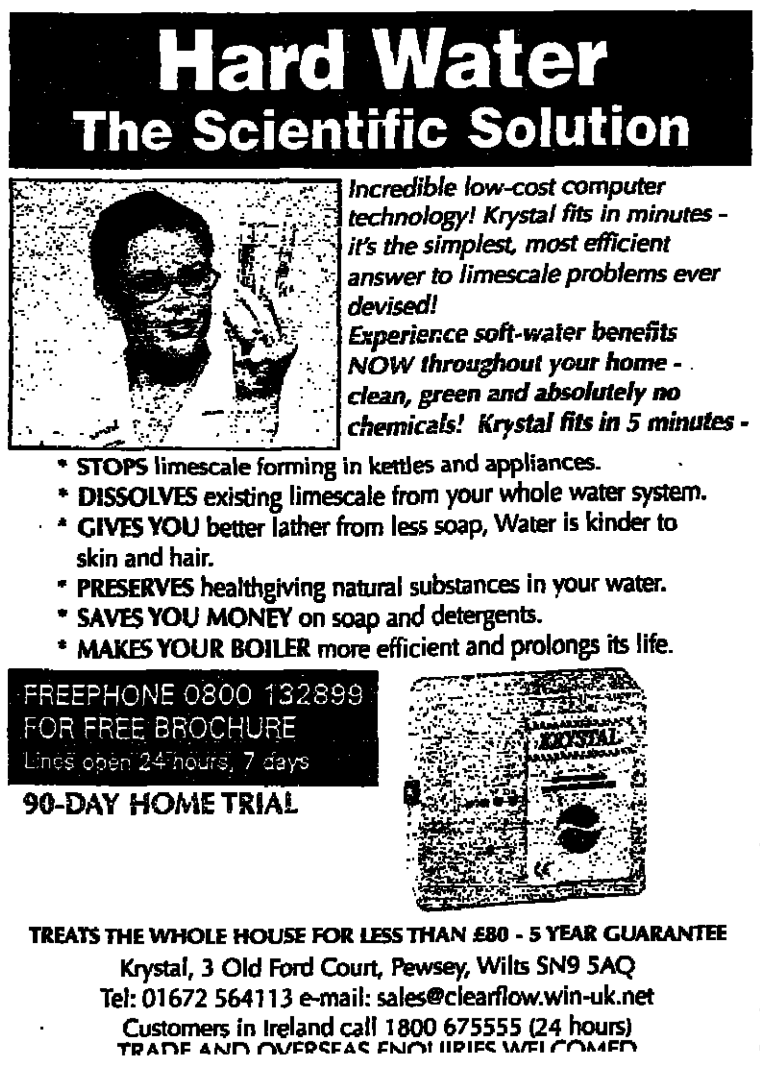

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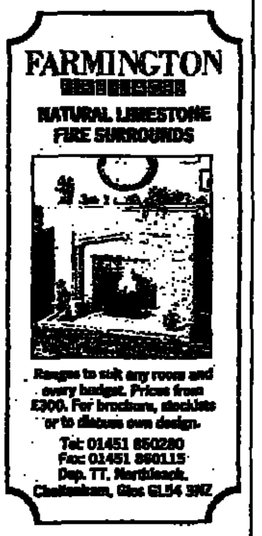

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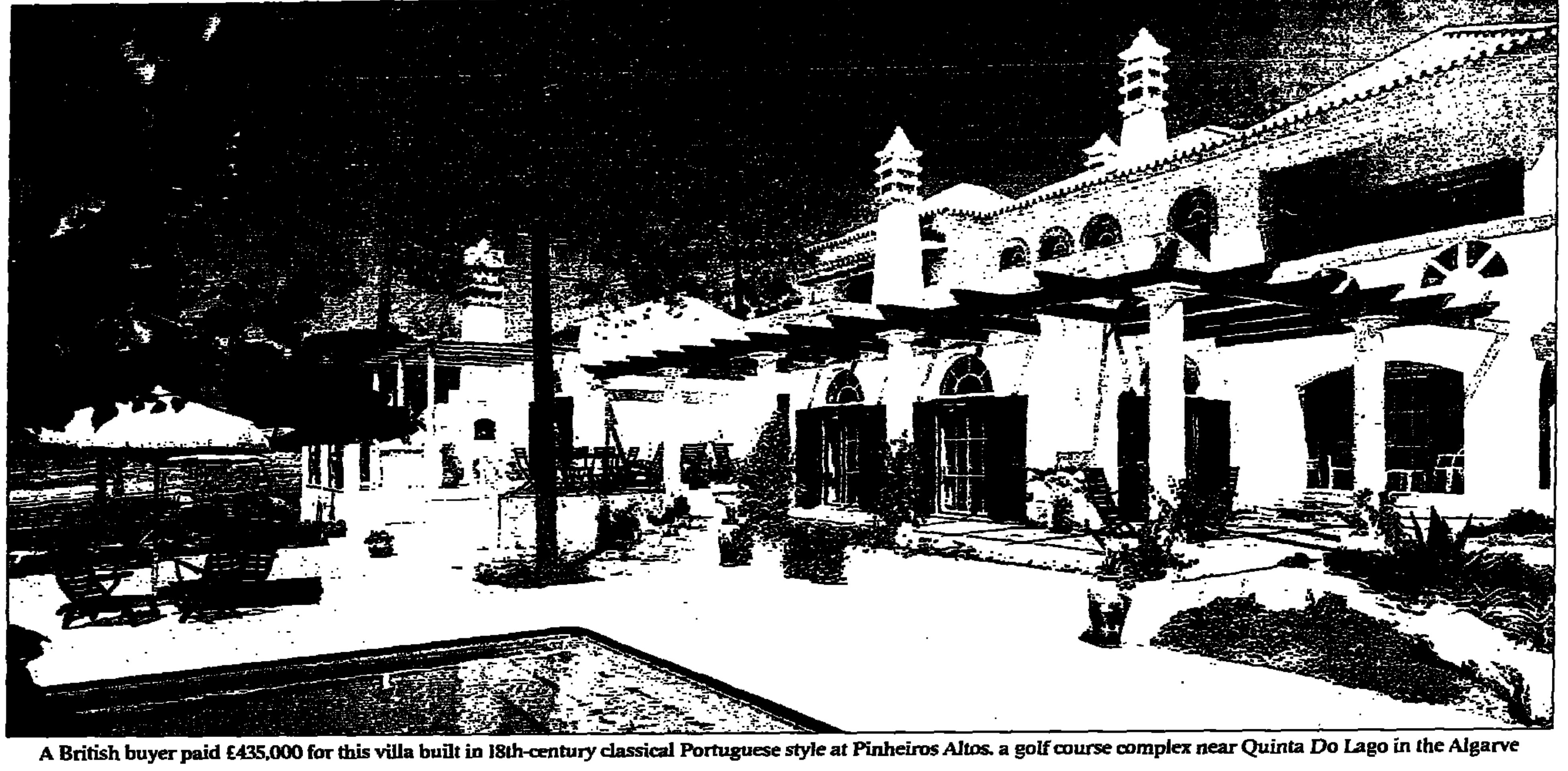


A British buyer paid £435,000 for this villa built in 18th-century classical Portuguese style at Pinheiros Altos, a golf course complex near Quinta Do Lago in the Algarve

With more Britons buying abroad, **Cheryl Taylor** looks at homes for bargain hunters and big spenders

If you are considering a continental home, start looking now. In the wake of the domestic housing revival, those with money to spend are spending it abroad, often with a view to early retirement. Paddy Dring, a partner at Knight Frank's international department, says: "There has been a steady growth in activity across Europe, with the British leading the way."

FRANCE

Despite the strength of the franc, the British are still buying property in France. Vendors are often prepared to accept a lower price, particularly in rural areas, where British buyers remain the driving force.

Vivien Bridge, of Northern France Properties, reports a brisk trade in country cottages and village houses up to £40,000 in the Mayenne, a peaceful farming region 90 minutes' drive from St Malo.

This quiet corner of France tends to be ignored by British holidaymakers travelling to the Dordogne and the Charente, and prices are lower than in Normandy and Brittany, to the north. A habitable two-bedroom house with a garden can still be found for £20,000, or a restored three-bedroom farmhouse in half an acre for £40,000.

Many Britons are buying homes in the Gers, a rich agricultural region of south-west France, close to the foothills of the Pyrenees. Large Gascon country houses, stonebuilt with wooden shutters, can be bought for about £150,000 in good condition.

There is a good supply of property and prices are low off the tourist track, about an hour's drive from Toulouse airport. Bargain properties range from farmbuildings and village houses to châteaux, many with land.

Ian Purslow, who has been selling property in the Gers for six years, has 200 properties on his books, mostly within a 90-minute drive of the Atlantic coast or skiing in the Pyrenees. "British people come here because houses are bigger and the weather is warmer," he says. "It looks like the Cotswolds, with less rain. Prices are half those in Provence, and there has not been an influx of foreign buyers."

He is asking £156,000 for a five-bedroom 18th-century country house, near the village of Condom; and £356,000 for a beautiful six-bedroom chateau in 4.5 acres of parkland, with a two-bedroom luxury cottage and a pool-house, 20 miles northwest of Auch.

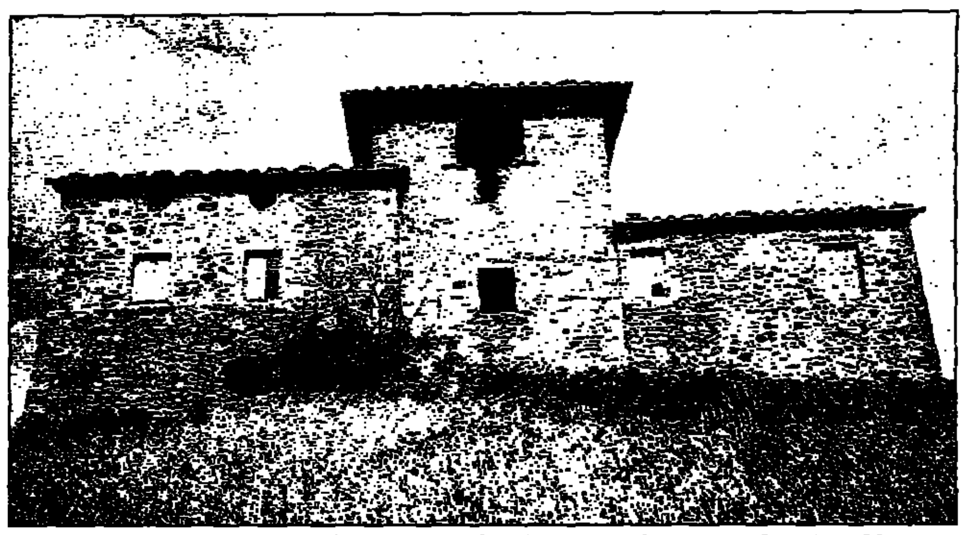
ITALY

There is renewed interest in Tuscany and neighbouring Umbria, the green heart of Italy, where many Britons own second homes.

According to Steve Emmett of Brian A. French & Associates, the property market there is experiencing increased activity in the range up to £50,000, and over £250,000. "Many prospective British purchasers keen to move to the area have been unable to sell their UK homes. But now they are able to move and have cash to spend," he says. "Around half our clients are looking to settle permanently in Italy."

Despite the influx of wealthy Brits to Tuscany and Umbria, the supply of ancient stone dwellings has not completely dried up, although good quality houses are harder to find. Abandoned farmhouses, medieval cottages and even ruined castles can still be found scattered across the gentle hillsides, among the vineyards and olive groves.

Property values vary according to area, but generally prices rise nearer Florence, Sienna or Cortona. Brian A. French has a large stone-built Tuscan farmhouse in need of renovation, in five acres, near Cortona, at £115,000 or a three-bedroom farmhouse, in the hills above Lucca, for £158,000.



Tuscan farmhouse, with five acres, ripe for renovation: yours for £115,000

Prices fall further south and east in Le Marche, where you could pick up a restored three-bedroom farmhouse with a couple of acres for about £65,000 or a run-down village house for £16,000.

The Italian Riviera, once the epitome of style for English aristocrats wintering abroad, is attracting British interest again. The rugged crescent of coast, from Ventimiglia on the French border to Portovenere, with its palm-fringed beaches and bright gardens, old fishing towns and vine-clad hillsides, has much to offer. This part of Italy enjoys one of the warmest winter climates in the country. Property is not cheap, but compared with the French Riviera, homes offer better value for money. Prices are lower around Imperia, the olive oil capital, with its bustling port, about an hour's drive from Nice airport.

In the hills above Imperia, an old two-bedroom village house, needing modernisation, with balcony and a roof terrace, costs about £38,000, through specialist agent Linda Travella, who has sold several properties in the area to British buyers. A three-bedroom apartment for renovation, in a 17th-century *palazzo*, is for sale at £44,000, or a restored one-bedroom flat in a converted olive mill at £45,000, a short distance from the Mediterranean.

SPAIN

After six years in the doldrums, the property market on Spain's Costa del Sol is starting to improve.

There is more new building along the coast and property prices in prime areas — at the edge of a beach or golf course or around Marbella — are rising, but slowly.

Cheryl Fielding of the Fielding Partnership, a Spanish estate agency run by English chartered surveyors, believes the area has benefited greatly from EU funds. Resale property is still good value, she says. A two-bedroom garden flat at Riviera del Sol, east of Marbella, is on offer at £39,000, and a detached three-bedroom villa, with sea views, at Calahonda, at £90,000. Many Britons are moving into the mountain foothills behind the coast, where the same agency is offering a three-bedroom country house in two acres of fruit trees for £113,000, 20 minutes' drive from the sea.

Paddy Dring, of Knight Frank, reports increased activity at the top of the market — £500,000-plus in the Marbella area — which buys a new four-bedroom villa, with staff quarters, west of Marbella.

At the less developed southern end of this coastline, the 4,400 acre Sotogrande estate, with its mimosa-fringed golf courses, 20 minutes' drive from Gibraltar airport, is popular with British buyers. It has three golf courses, including two 18-hole championship courses, designed by Robert Trent Jones. More than 60 villas have been built and sold in the past two years, and more are under construction. A new three-bedroom detached villa costs £190,000.

Apartments at the harbour village in the port of Sotogrande range from £100,000 for two bedrooms, up to £386,000 for a four-bedroom town house with a pool on the terrace; many have an optional 15-metre berth at the bottom of the garden.

The seriously rich go to Majorca in search of traditional farmhouses and old town houses costing more than £300,000. Ancient 20-roomed *palacios* for renovation in Palma, the capital, are fetching up to £1 million, according to Naomi Greatbanks of Hamptons International.

PORTUGAL

The Algarve is attracting British buyers with up to £500,000 to spend on a villa in a luxury golfing development.

Hamptons International reports keen interest from British clients in the upmarket leisure estates, with golf courses, near Faro airport, not least the 1,700 acre Quinta do Lago, which has several palatial homes for sale.

Here you could buy a five-bedroom, five-bathroom villa in half an acre for £595,000 with a swimming pool.

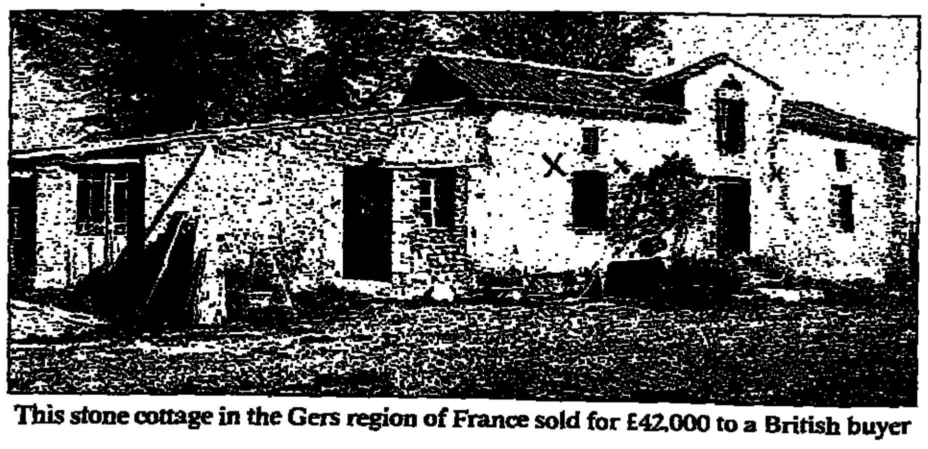
With its 72 holes of golf, Quinta do Lago is now the largest golfing complex in Europe. The latest golf course development at Quinta, Pinheiros Altos is attracting the most interest. It is a 300-acre site overlooking the nature reserve of the Ria Formosa tidal inlet, which includes an 18-hole golf course. The developer has sold 91 villa plots alongside the fairways, at prices up to £295,000. Building is under way on 77 houses and apartments, priced from £195,000 for a two-bedroom flat to £269,000 for a three-bedroom semi-detached house.

● *Northern France Properties, 0181-891 1750; Linda Travella, 01322-660 988; Brian A. French & Associates, 0171-735 8244; Hamptons International, 0171-493 8222; Knight Frank, 0171-629 8171; Fielding Partnership, 0181-332 9939; Ian Purslow, 0033-626 76150; Pinheiros Altos, 0171-602 9922; Sotogrande, 0171-351 2385; Sifex, 0171-384 1200.*

YOUR GUIDE TO BUYING AND SELLING ABROAD

When buying property abroad, as in Britain, it is important to use an independent solicitor. There are pitfalls associated with obtaining clear title to resale properties, and without thorough searches you could find yourself in trouble.

Homes in Mediterranean countries are often owned by several family members and getting agreement for a sale from each of the owners involved can be a long and difficult process.



This stone cottage in the Gers region of France sold for £42,000 to a British buyer

Unlike buying a home in Britain, any debts outstanding on a property in Spain or Italy, for example, are inherited by the new owner. You may even find there is a mortgage on your new home, which must be paid off before title deeds can be released.

■ FRANCE: as in most other European countries, property transactions in France are completed before a public notary.

One snag is that all fees, including notary fees of 8 to 12 per cent and 6 to 8 per cent for the estate agent (the cheaper the property, the higher the fees), must be paid by the purchaser. Most British agents selling property in France include their fee in the quoted price, but check.

If you sell your home within two years of purchase, you must pay 33.6 per cent of the profit in tax. Always keep any receipts for repairs and restoration work to the property as these can be set against your final tax bill for the sale.

■ ITALY: the initial contract (*compromesso*) involves financial penalties if either party backs out. The buyer forfeits his deposit, between 20 and 30 per cent of the agreed price, and the seller has to pay back double the sum deposited. Once the transfer deed (*rogito*) is signed and the money handed over, the notary registers the transfer deed with the local land registry and the property is yours.

Stamp duty paid by second home buyers on resale property is 10 per cent of registered value on buildings and 17 per cent on land. If you are buying a new home, Italian VAT (IVA) is payable at 9 per cent of value. Notorial fees are charged on a sliding scale from 1 to 3 per cent.

If you sell within five years and are not resident in Italy, you will be liable to pay capital gains tax on any increase in value.

■ SPAIN: your solicitor should check that there are no mortgages on the property, that the vendor does not owe taxes and that planning permission has been obtained. Buying costs include Spanish VAT (IVA) at 7 per cent on new homes, plus a documentary tax (AJD) at 0.5 per cent. Resale homes attract a transfer tax of 6 per cent of value. Land for building is taxed at 16 per cent, plus AJD at 0.5 per cent. Your final bill is likely to be 10 to 12 per cent of the purchase price, plus legal fees. Cash from a sale can be taken out of Spain, less capital gains tax.

■ PORTUGAL: after signing the provisional contract of sale, the buyer must pay a 10 per cent deposit, which is forfeited if he does not go ahead. If the vendor pulls out, he must pay the purchaser twice the deposit.

Buyers pay transfer tax (SISA) on homes, rural land and building plots, costing more than 10 million Escudos (£41,666). Portuguese VAT (IVA) of 17 per cent is levied on a new home. Notary fees and registration costs amount to 2.5 per cent of the price. On resale, you can repatriate the proceeds, less capital gains tax.

● *Solicitors in Britain who specialise in overseas conveyancing include: Dobson & Pinci (Italy), 0171-628 8163; Prettys (France), 01473 232121; Neville de Rougemont (Portugal), 0171-490 4656; Thrings and Long (France), 01225 448494; Withers (France and Spain), 0171-936 1000.*

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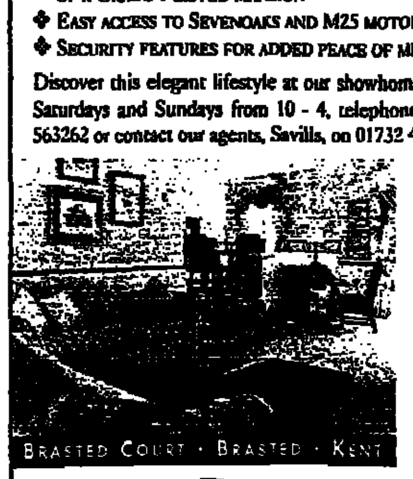

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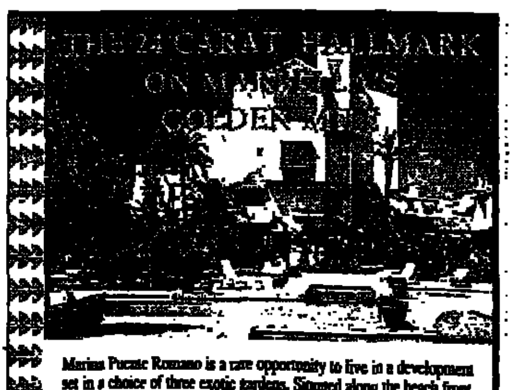

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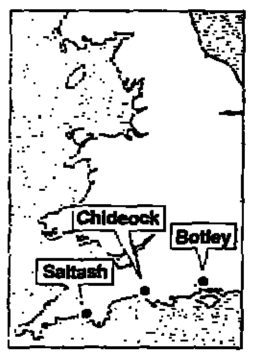


HAMPSHIRE
Blackmans Cottage, Botley. Grade II listed village house with a large west-facing walled garden. Four bedrooms, bathroom, drawing room, dining room, kitchen, sunroom/breakfast room and cloakroom. About £150,000 (John D. Wood, 01962 863131).

CHERYL TAYLOR

Inverforth House at Hampstead Heath, London, formerly owned by the Industrial Orthopaedic Society, is being redeveloped into homes costing from £325,000 to £4 million

Cure for old hospitals

Developers are offering a new lease of life to sites in prime locations

Keith and Sue Sleeman are selling their house in Berkshire, which has an acre and a half of garden plus river frontage, and going to live in an old hospital in Salisbury, Wiltshire.

"My friends think we're mad, but I know we're going to be living in one of the finest city-centre residential sites that I've come across," Mrs Sleeman says. By mid-November there will be no more gardening and only a short walk to the shops, railway station, river Avon and Salisbury Cathedral. The Sleemans will be living in a two-bedroom second-floor apartment, which used to be the nurses' home for the the city's former general infirmary.

Mr Sleeman, architect for the Cathedral Views development, says: "If the architect goes to live there, it's not a bad recommendation."

As at other developments by different companies, Future Heritage and Frogmore Estates are creating new homes out of an old hospital site. There will be lots of sites available in the future as buildings become surplus to healthcare purposes. More than 800 (non-trust) properties, which could include individual houses, hospitals and health centres, are expected to realise about £1.2 billion for reinvestment in healthcare over the next few years. About 190 properties are already on the market, though not all will go for residential use.

In Salisbury, the Sleemans are paying more than £200,000 for three bedrooms (one will become a dining room), two bathrooms, a sitting room and kitchen in an Edwardian building which houses eight other apartments and a small penthouse.

Their apartment is light and airy with seven windows in the living room and a balcony in the main bedroom overlooking the river Avon.

The infirmary itself, John Wood House, dates from 1767. The Grade II listed building is being converted into ten apartments, with prices from £167,500. The development also includes two new terraces of five town houses, from £205,000. The first homes will be ready in November. A third have been reserved.

At Virginia Park, Virginia Water, Surrey, 213 houses and apartments are being built by Octagon Developments in a 24-acre, walled estate which contains a Grade I listed former Victorian sanatorium. The building, Crossland House, is being converted into 23 three and four-storey town houses, the first available now at £475,000 to £650,000.

In the grounds, 36 houses (£305,000 to £335,000) will be ready next March. The first of 68 apartments (£300,000) will be ready next spring.

At Hampstead Heath in north London, Pamlion Properties, in association with Frogmore Estates, is converting Inverforth House, a Grade II listed mansion formerly owned by the Industrial Orthopaedic Society. Nine units, including the two wings which each have a swimming pool and average 7,000 to 8,000 square feet, are being sold at £600,000 to £4 million. The homes should be available by next September. Four new buildings and four refurbished ones at Inverforth Close (£325,000 to £1 million) have been completed and most of them sold.

The Raven Group is working on six hospital sites for residential purposes. At Tehidy Park, near Camborne, Cornwall, it plans 22 houses in a Grade II listed former geriatric hospital and 28 houses in the 45 acres. Work is due to start next month, with the first homes ready in May. Prices are from £60,000 to £240,000.

At Lancaster Moor, Lancashire, Raven plans to convert a Grade II listed building into 28 houses, and build 71 houses on ten acres, keeping 35 acres as parkland. Prices will be from £85,000 to £245,000.

Nick Burr, of Raven, says: "We design the homes specifically for the site and incorporate architectural points in them from any listed buildings we find there. By converting these old buildings to residential use we are saving them for future generations."

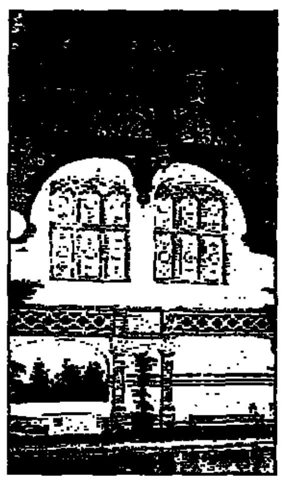
Save Britain's Heritage is also concerned to do that. Emma Phillips, author of *Mind Over Matter*, a report considering the future of more than 100 psychiatric hospitals, says: "They are often wonderful buildings, designed by well-known architects and were objects of great civic pride. What we're worried about is an enormous blot on the landscape if large-scale development takes place in the grounds which is unsympathetic to the orginal building and the site itself." She cites Moorhaven Village, in the southern part of the Dartmoor National Park, as an example of a sympathetic conversion. In 1994, Jonathan Mathys and Andrea Peacock bought Moorhaven psychiatric hospital and converted a large number of buildings into 100 homes.

A few places are still for sale, including a seven-storey water tower (£30,000), which could be turned into living and working accommodation. Mr Mathys reckons £60,000 needs to be spent on it. There is also a four-bedroomed house with a two-bedroomed cottage attached in six acres of paddock for £250,000.

Another village development is envisaged for the 19th-century Herrison psychiatric hospital, north of Dorchester, Dorset. The 87.89 acre site is for sale through Goadsby & Harding in Bournemouth. It has outline planning consent for about 430 homes, including converted and new units.

In Somerset, half of the 130 houses and flats which Pinecraven has developed at the old Grade II listed Mendip psychiatric hospital site outside Wells are now occupied. Prices in the Victorian building are from £54,000 to £75,000. On the 50-acre site, close to a cricket pitch and golf club, 21 three and four-bedroom houses have been built, with another 65 to go up next year. Prices are £90,000 to £110,000.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND



Virginia Water's old hospital gets a pool

FACT FILE

- ■ **Cathedral Views: Future Heritage, 01225 446633; agents Myddelton & Major, 01722 337575, and Humberts, 01722 324422.**
- ■ **Virginia Park: Octagon, 01344 844622; agents Barton Wyatt, 01344 842857.**
- ■ **Inverforth House: Pamlion Properties, 0181-349 1991.**
- ■ **Raven Group, 0171-235 0422.**
- ■ **Save Britain's Heritage, 68 Battersea High Street, London SW11 3HX (0171-228 3336). *Mind Over Matter* costs £12.95, including p&p.**
- ■ **Moorhaven, 01752 892411.**
- ■ **Goadsby and Harding, 01202 299300.**
- ■ **Pinecraven, 01749 675550.**

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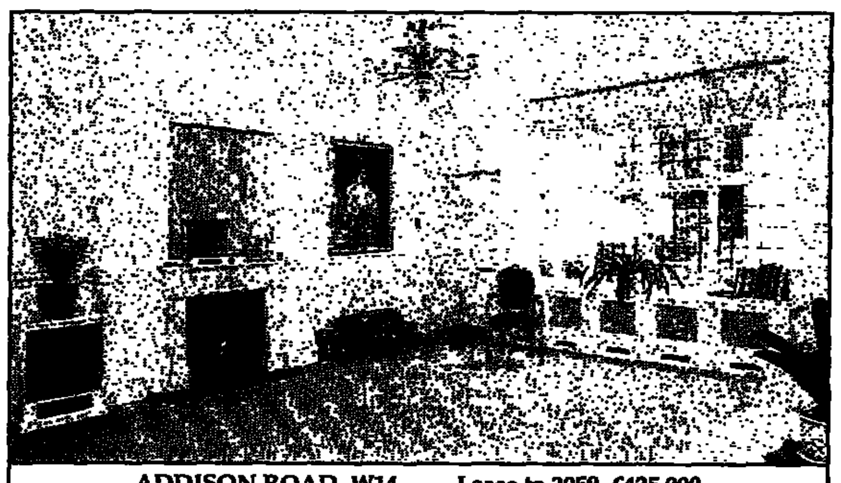

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Price Guide:
£135,000

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هكذا من الأصل

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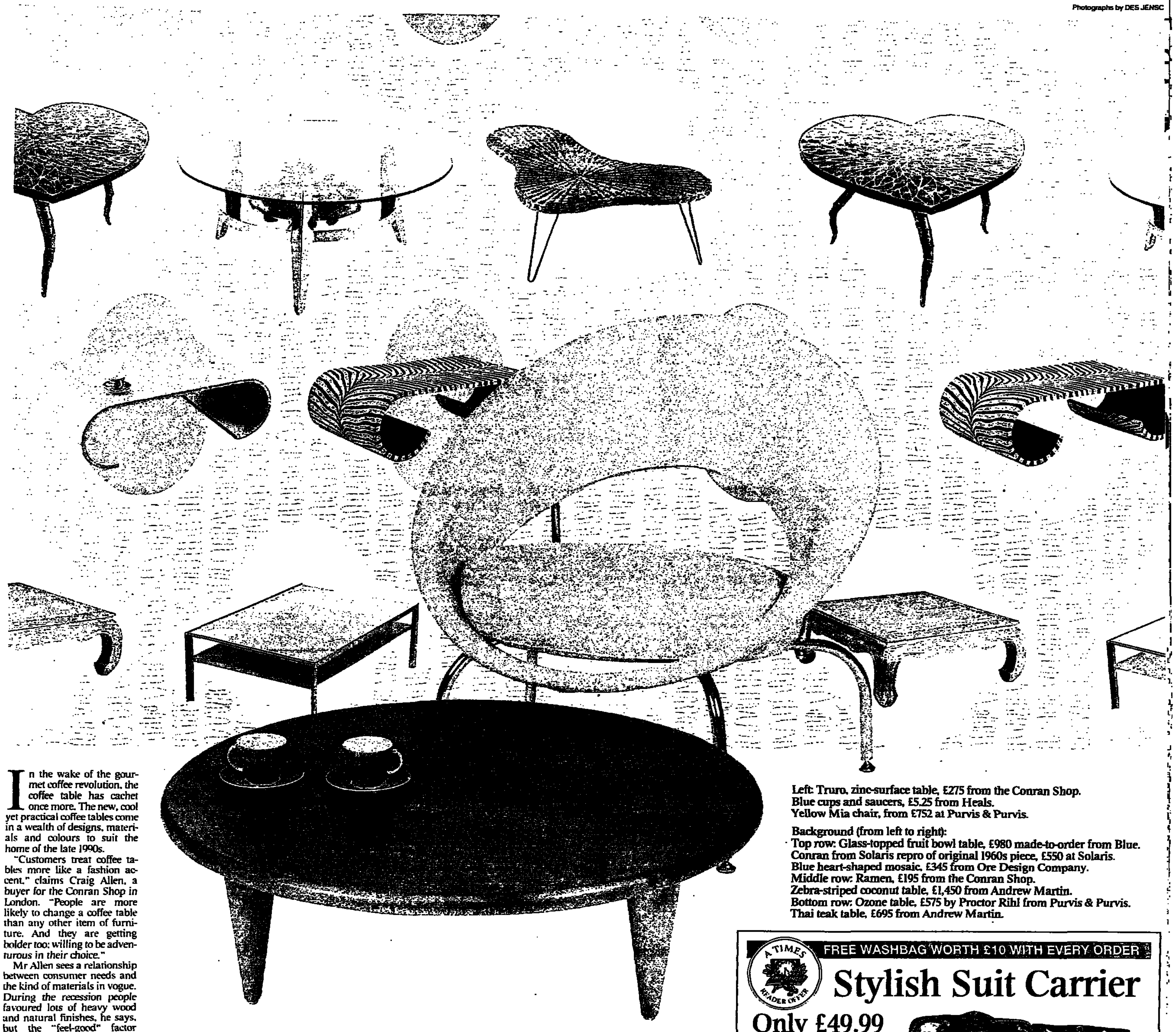
Coffee tables are back — as practical as ever but now in bold colours and adventurous designs and materials

Little tables with a lot of taste

Photographs by DES JENSC



Left: Truro, zinc-surface table, £275 from the Conran Shop.
Blue cups and saucers, £5.25 from Heals.
Yellow Mia chair, from £752 at Purvis & Purvis.

Background (from left to right):
Top row: Glass-topped fruit bowl table, £980 made-to-order from Blue.
Conran from Solaris repro of original 1960s piece, £550 at Solaris.
Blue heart-shaped mosaic, £345 from Ore Design Company.
Middle row: Ramen, £195 from the Conran Shop.
Zebra-striped coconut table, £1,450 from Andrew Martin.
Bottom row: Ozone table, £575 by Proctor Rihl from Purvis & Purvis.
Thai teak table, £695 from Andrew Martin.

In the wake of the gourmet coffee revolution, the coffee table has cachet once more. The new, cool yet practical coffee tables come in a wealth of designs, materials and colours to suit the home of the late 1990s.

"Customers treat coffee tables more like a fashion accent," claims Craig Allen, a buyer for the Conran Shop in London. "People are more likely to change a coffee table than any other item of furniture. And they are getting bolder too: willing to be adventurous in their choice."

Mr Allen sees a relationship between consumer needs and the kind of materials in vogue. During the recession people favoured lots of heavy wood and natural finishes, he says, but the "feel-good" factor draws them towards industrial polished metal, plastics and laminates in modish hues of lime green, orange and cerise.

Many of the smartest coffee tables are on castors. The Conran Shop's "Tavolo" (£695), designed by Gae Aulenti, has rubber wheels. Habitat's "Pietra" is a moveable feast of granite-look Italian cardosa stone on a steamed beech base at £249. The more modest Ikea "Timra" beech-veneer model with metal castors costs £69.

Tables with a function apart from being used to rest your coffee cups (and feet) are popular, too. Many have integral shelving or drawers for storage. More ingenious is Blue's glass-topped table with a built-in polished chrome fruit bowl.

Devotees of Parisian zinc-topped bars can evoke a similar atmosphere in their living room with the sophisticated "Capuchin" table costing £1,095 from the Conran Shop. The table surface is sheet zinc, which doesn't stay new-looking for long, but the patination is all part of the charm.

For those who admire the Japanese look, Corin Mellor has designed "Ramen", a pleasingly free-flowing and curvaceous birch-faced ply table, £195 at Conran.

The "Remus" table (£575) from the Conran Shop ages with its owner, being made from deeply coloured "green" English oak, which will move and warp and possibly develop characterful lines and cracks.

Tactile, coloured coffee tables are the buzzword at

merly of the Italian furniture company Cappellini. Resin feels soft and user-friendly, especially in the "Spanna" table, a burgundy laminate on double-layered beechwood, perfect for clumsy red wine drinkers, and costing £249.

Mr Cappa favours clean lines and simple, elongated shapes, "though its difficult to tempt customers away from the rectangle or introduce different heights", he says.

Many people may be surprised to know that coffee tables are a 20th-century invention. Earlier generations would invariably rest their coffee cups on high console tables. Continentals still favour tall tables.

Coffee tables evocative of distant travels are bestsellers at the Andrew Martin shop in London, whether the modern classic, chunky, teak Thai carved table at £395-£750, the curvaceous coconut shell tables from the Philippines at £900, or the table comprising a couple of vintage Louis Vuitton leather suitcases pushed together (£600).

See-through tables are easy on the eye and work well in smaller homes. Seng Watson's futuristic, elliptical Perspex table (£1,200 to order) is half suspension bridge, half floating spaceship, and is available at Tom Dixon's Space.

Dixon's own shimmering, lunar, dotty tables (£550) work well placed at jaunty angles, as do the fluid lines and soft modernity of Ikea's green-and-white plastic "Njuranda" tables at £24.

Some stylists are hailing an imminent revival of 1960s plastics, typified by Ecro Saarinen's "Knoll International" coffee table with a plastic tulip design, £735 from Knoll International. Mark Newson's bright red self-assembly "Gello" concertinas like a Chinese paper lantern, £250 from David Gill.

For the more eco-friendly, Simon Moore has designed "Funky Coffee Table Mark I" (£200), which is made to order from a mix of recycled plastic and aluminium.

Jamie Hart's "Wine Cage" (about £1,000 to order) was designed especially for wine lovers. Bottles can be stored inside the glass and mild steel table and are rotated as the wheels are turned on a clockwork-like mechanism — perfect for showing off your smartest empties, but hardly ideal for serious vintages.

Just as striking are Tom Barker's heart-shaped, mosaic-topped tables (£345 to order), which would look good in the garden, too — brilliant Mediterranean blue petal-shaped mosaics are arranged like a huge flower.

Both the above prototypes are at Ore Design, a young design workshop in Battersea, south London, where fantasy coffee tables can be created according to one's imagination and budget.

For the terminally indecisive, Caroline Musson, a designer and shop owner of Ore Design, suggests her "Tri-table", a giant coffee table, ideal for television dinners, which divides in half to make two square tables when you need more space.

A recent commission was from a fashion editor who wanted a coffee table large enough for her to design pages on yet still show the carpet underneath, and which was not made purely of glass.

Ms Musson designed a 6ft by 5ft table with a frame of sandblasted glass, underpinned with a diverting steel cage effect and cannon ball-sized steel feet. As Ms Musson explains: "Coffee tables deserve plenty of attention — after all, we sit round them far more than dining tables."

SUDI PIGOTT

TABLE OF TABLES

Pietra low table, Italian cardosa stone on a steamed beech base, £249 from Habitat

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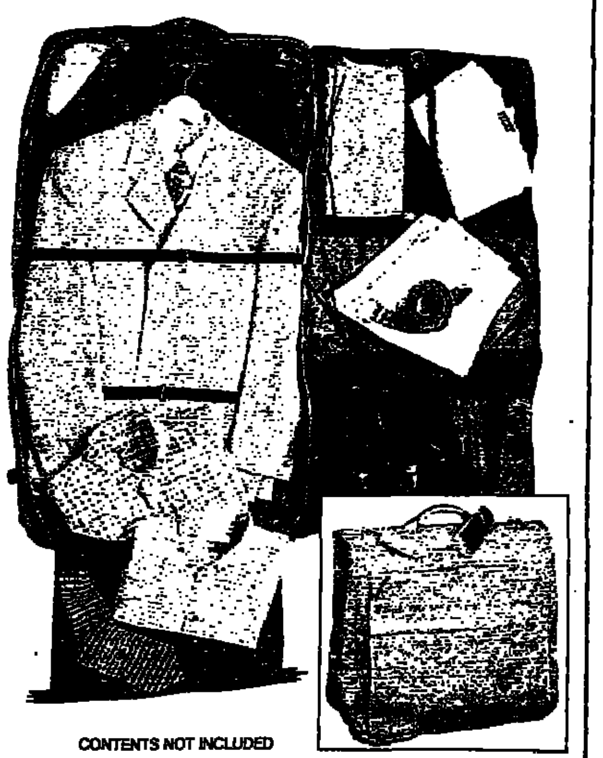

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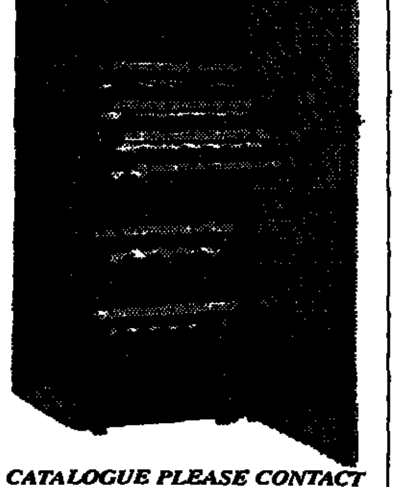

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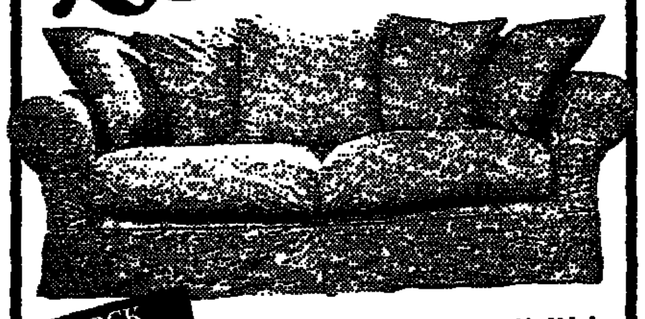

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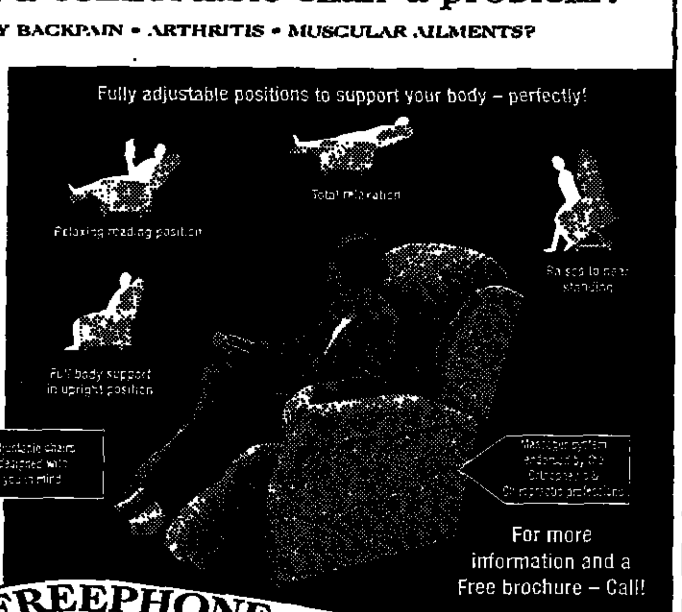

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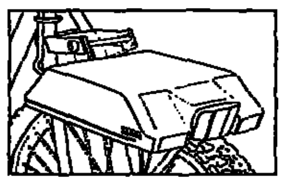

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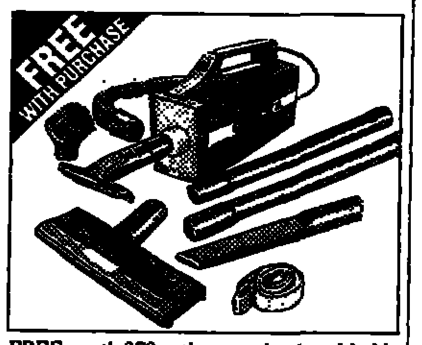

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For a cricket lover:

The Village Cricket Tour will give hours of pleasure. A novel which describes the adventures and mishaps of a team of amateur cricketers who spend two weeks of their summer holidays on a cricket tour of the West Country and which has been compared to Jerome K Jerome's classic "Three Men in a Boat". "I enjoyed it immensely" wrote Peter Tinniswood in Punch. "He has succeeded in writing a book that will entertain, a book that will amuse and warm the cockles of tired hearts." "Coleman is a very funny writer," said This England. "It would be a pity if cricketers were the only people to read this book." "Seminal reading includes de Selincourt and Blunden and should now embrace Vernon Coleman's latest offering, a whimsical piece about the peregrinations of a village cricket team on its summer tour," said The Cricketer magazine. "All the characters are here, woven together by a raft of anecdotes and reminiscences and a travelogue of some of the most picturesque spots in the south west." A marvellous present for all cricket lovers.

For a golf lover:

Anyone who likes golf will love **The Man Who Inherited a Golf Course**. This superb novel tells the story of Trevor Dukinfield who wakes up one morning to find that he is the owner of his very own golf club - fairways, bunkers, clubhouse and all. There's one snag: to keep the club he must win a golf match. And he's never played a round of golf in his life. "The scenario is tailor made for Vernon Coleman's light and amusing anecdotes about country life and pursuits" said the Sunday Independent. "Very readable!" said Golf World. "Hugely enjoyable in the best tradition of British comic writing" said the Evening Chronicle. "The mix of anecdotes and moments of sheer farce make for an absorbing read" said the Evening Telegraph. A terrific present for anyone who enjoys golf. Far more fun than another pair of socks or a bottle of aftershave.

For a cat lover:

Feline fans will love **Alice's Diary** which tells of a year in the life of a mixed tabby cat. Alice shows us, with great humour and insight, what it is really like to be a cat. Our files are bursting with letters from readers who love this book. "What a wonderful book, so beautifully written, it was a great pleasure to read" wrote Mrs Y of Essex. "Please send copies of Alice's Diary to the eleven friends on the accompanying list. It is a wonderful book which will give them all great pleasure," wrote Mr R of Lancashire. Alice's Diary is delightfully illustrated throughout. But we warn you: when you see it you may not want to give it away! An absolute must for all cat and animal lovers. Guaranteed to give more joy and laughter than almost any other present you can choose.

Or for *anyone* who loves a good read:

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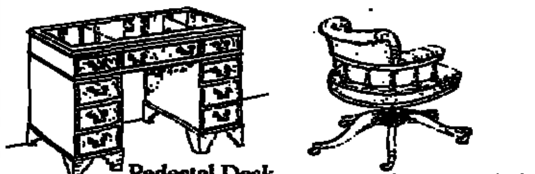

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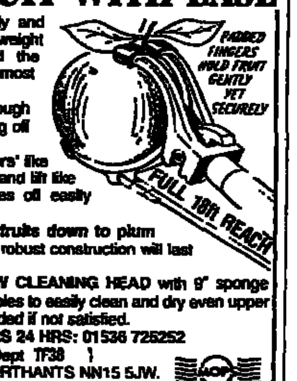
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More women are victims of INTESTACY than DIVORCE

A woman, on average, lives longer than a man. So she is more likely to have to face the difficulties of intestacy – the legal term for being left in a mess because her husband didn't make a Will.

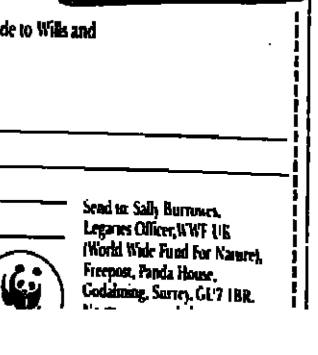
Many men assume that, on their death, all they own will automatically go to their wives. This isn't so. When a man dies intestate, not just his wife but brothers, sisters and even cousins may have a claim on what he owned.

His widow may have to sell the house to pay off his relations.

None of this need happen if he makes a will. Yet seven out of ten people fail to take this simple step.

Now, as a service to the public, WWF UK (World Wide Fund For Nature) has produced its own plain language guide to making a will. It explains:

- why everyone needs to make a will
- how to go about it
- and how to minimise tax liability on what you leave behind.



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Where the muses lived

■ THE ATLAS OF LITERATURE
Edited by Malcolm Bradbury
De Agostini Editions, £25
ISBN 1 899883 67 3

JAMES JOYCE famously said of Dublin that, if the city were destroyed, it could be reconstructed from his books. Pure hubris, of course; but the way his native city permeates his work is nevertheless astonishing.

This handsome volume is based on the premise that while Joyce may have been extreme, he was not untypical. It argues that there has always been a vital connection between writers and place, and sets out to delineate it. Its mechanism is a series of independent essays on places which have strong literary connections: most are heavily illustrated by annotated maps and photographs and are linked by a modicum of commentary.

It is not clear what Malcolm Bradbury's role as general editor involved, but I doubt it included any copy editing. I cannot believe he would have passed some of the extraordinary stylistic and factual lapses. What literary prof, for example, would pass a sentence like the following? "When the Great Exhibition was opened by Prince Albert in 1851 in the Crystal Palace in London's Hyde Park, it did not only signal Britain's proud, pioneering role in the technological revolution that was starting to transform mid-19th century Europe and America."

The cast of contributors is long and in part distinguished. In the latter category one finds Arthur Miller (on Broadway), Valentine Cunningham (on the Spanish Civil War), Owen Dudley Edwards (on 18th-century Dublin and Edinburgh) and Christopher Bigsby (on various American locations and topics). Such luminaries are accompanied by a squad of jobbing hacks of the D. J. Taylor and Nigel West variety.

Not surprisingly, the collection is pretty uneven. Some essays stick closely to place, while others resemble A-level guides to whole artistic movements. Some contributions are informative or striking; others read like reconstituted guidebook stuff. But the book is redeemed by its livelier contributions, by having a bibliography and a decent index, and by retailing all kinds of useless — if fascinating — information. The revelation, for example, that Henry James dined out on no fewer than 107 occasions in a single year may not change the world, but it helps to explain his extraordinary style.

JOHN NAUGHTON

Wonderless wasteland of Oz

Nigel Hawkes discovers how the arrival of man in the Antipodes 35,000 years ago spelt the death of a continent

AUSTRALIA seems to inspire big books that paint a gloomy picture of human behaviour. Robert Hughes's magnificent *Fatal Shore*, about the peopling of Australia, has now been joined by the paperback edition of Tim Flannery's book, which details how those people, and their Aboriginal predecessors, put paid to the native fauna.

This, too, is a big powerful book, written in admirably spare prose and avoiding most of the traps set for those attempting ecological history. Australia before man was a canvas drawn in vivid colours and never swept clean by the spread of ice. Its animals were extraordinary and mostly doomed, for man brought fire and a taste for meat.

The marsupials now extinct mostly went to fill the bellies of the first colonisers, long before Captain Cook's arrival. Among them were the marsupial rhino, seven species of kangaroo and giant wombats, the Australian equivalent of the megafauna of North America which also fell into man's traps and onto his stone-tipped spears.

But it happened earlier in Australia, at least 35,000 years ago. What was left were the swiftest marsupials, the kangaroos and wallabies, wombats which could hide underground and koala bears which could hide in trees. These survivors suggest by their very nature that it was a predator, and not climate change, which eliminated their fellows so comprehensively.

■ THE FUTURE EATERS
By Tim Flannery
Secker & Warburg, £12.99
ISBN 0 436 20351 0

Flannery, who is the senior research scientist in mammology at the Australian Museum in Sydney, is an expert who carries his expertise lightly. His thesis is that by destroying the ecosystem they stumbled on, Australia's first humans consumed their own future. He asserts that in spite of its small population, Australia is overpopulated, with between six and twelve million people more than the land can support — one of the few conventional ecological pieties in an otherwise highly original book.

Like Edward O. Wilson, whose love of ants underpins everything he writes, Flannery was clearly a born scientist, boiling dead kangaroos as a child in order to understand their anatomy. A poor mathematician — another feature shared with Wilson — his first degree was in Middle English literature, and he only became a scientist later. His PhD thesis was on the evolution of kangaroos.

A book as broad and sweeping as *The Future Eaters* is bound to raise the hackles of more conventionally academic scholars. But for the general reader it is a stimulating romp through Antipodean history, beautifully written and full of unexpected facts. For a nation long thought to have no history before British colonisation, Australia has provided a story of surprising richness.

Aborigine: the first despoiler?

Potboiler leaves a Nazi smell

Peter Millar on a tired thriller with the usual German suspects

GROWING up Jewish in Northern Ireland is, I imagine, an exotic enough experience in itself. When the individual concerned then discovers a passionate love for Arabic languages and Egyptology and a high-flying academic career, it is unsurprising that when he turns to thriller-writing the results are extraordinary.

And so they have been. Daniel Easterman has a string of taut, exotically plotted, international thrillers to his credit. At his best, he can weave a web of suspense, laced with historical and mythological references that bait the imagination, satisfactorily embroidered with bullet holes and bloodshed. All cracking examples of the genre.

Easterman: disappointing

Which is precisely why his latest book, *The Final Judgment*, is such a desperate disappointment. The premise is tempting enough: the kidnap of a young Israeli boy living with his parents in Sardinia goes awesomely wrong, ending in his rescue but their murder. All despite the heroic intervention of his uncle, a grizzled war veteran and orthodox Jew from the disputed West Bank settlements. So far, so good, possibly, except that the heart sinks immediately the couple's murder is revealed to have been accompanied by a swastika daubed on the bedroom wall. Surely not? Surely the inventive Easterman is not going to turn out just another tale of neo-Nazis on the rampage. Oh yes, I am afraid he is.

■ THE FINAL JUDGMENT
By Daniel Easterman
HarperCollins, £16.99
ISBN 0 00 224156 0

The plot of this book is a cobbled-together, unoriginal mishmash of off-the-peg *Obergruppenführers* and Italian mafiosi. None of this is made better by numerous glaring linguistic howlers among the many German phrases dropped in for supposed authenticity. Meanwhile, the characters, from the geriatric Goebbels-fans to the well-meaning undercover agents of anti-imperialist Zionism are straight out of a million postwar, substandard hack-works.

Even on an interminable intercontinental flight, I found myself skimming the last hundred pages in the hope of reaching an unexpected, vindicating twist in the tale. All in vain. Yes, there was the usual quota of gory incidents, a climactic underground chase and a particularly predictable double-cross. But in the end, nothing spoils the impression that for once Easterman has signally failed to impress.

PETER MILLAR

JOHN MANNING SIMON TOWNSLEY

Tale of a tubby: Nigel Lawson before and after his diet — the results were so dramatic that some people thought he was ill

Taking no risks with inflation

NIGEL LAWSON has succeeded in reducing his weight, and holding it there, in a way that he never quite managed with inflation. He approaches slimming rather as he did monetary policy — stressing the need "to adopt a small number of simple rules, and then stick to them over a sufficient period of time". His pocket-size book describing how is a low fat soufflé account, light but nourishing. At 120 pages, it is much slimmer than the 1,100 pages of his "very fat" tome on his years as Chancellor.

Lawson rules out crash programmes, patent slimming products and elaborate calorie-counting systems. Instead, he recommends a commonsense approach aimed at developing good habits — the eternal goal of British macro-economic policy. In the case of his waistline, the results are impressive. In nine months, he lost five stone, falling to less than 12 stone, where he has remained for a year.

■ THE NIGEL LAWSON DIET BOOK
By Nigel Lawson
Michael Joseph, £12.99
ISBN 0 7181 4175 X

At first, he cut out alcohol, dairy products, fat, sugar, fried and starchy foods, but continued with three meals a day — though nothing in between — consisting of fish, the non-fatty bits of meat, poultry and game eggs, fruit, salads (though he dislikes the garish mixed version) and vegetables. He is now permitted some of those forbidden foods.

In the second half of the book, his wife Thérèse describes a series of weight-conscious, but delicious, recipes. Food can still be fun. The Lawson story is familiar to those of us who live in the self-indulgent world of journalism and politics, where food and drink fuel conversation, and indiscretion.

As with inflation and public spending, it was always easier to expand. Lawson was only forced to change by a crisis — for once, not in the financial markets but by a painful knee and an embarrassingly cumbersome skiing holiday. The slimming had such a dramatic impact that some thought he was ill.

The leaner Lawson is obviously happier, but something of the old buccaneering Nigel — the fattie who didn't give a damn — has gone. I cannot see Kenneth Clarke doing the same.

PETER RIDDELL

NOVELS IN BRIEF

Little boy lost and found

■ SNOW ON THE MOON
By Keith Heller
Headline, £14.99
ISBN 0 7472 1723 8

SET in the aftermath of the Second World War, Keith Heller's novel deals with loss and exile. Evelyn Winter, a young American woman, is stranded in the town of Escorial in northern Spain by a heavy fall of snow.

There she meets ten-year-old Herschel, a Polish refugee who has become separated from his parents after the liberation. She is intrigued by the child's enigmatic allusions to his past, and by his exceptional gift for drawing: when he appeals to her for help in evading the authorities, she is unable to refuse him — and finds herself caught up in a strange quest.

Heller's blend of historical fact and dreamlike images conveys the tragic events of Herschel's story with a spareness that underlines their horror. The novel is also a fable about spiritual resurrection, written with considerable subtlety.

■ LET ME COUNT THE WAYS
By Deborah Bosley
Century, £9.99
ISBN 0 7126 7751 8

DEBORAH BOSLEY'S protagonist, wayward, chain-smoking Frances, falls in love with an attractive American, Finn, only to find, after they are married, that he is HIV-positive as a result of a previous affair with a man.

When Frances learns that Finn is dying, she follows him to his mother's house in the Midwest in order to look after him in his last months. Bosley's account of the helpless anger Frances feels at the thought of Finn's imminent death seems entirely plausible, and her refusal to idealise either character makes their predicament seem all the more believable.

■ THE WONDER BOOK OF THE AIR
By Cynthia Shearer
Bloomsbury, £15.99
ISBN 0 7475 2821 7

CYNTHIA SHEARER'S novel spans three generations of an American family over six decades — from the Second World War to the present day. Its central character, Harrison Durrance, is glimpsed at various stages in his life, from his Georgia childhood to reactionary middle-age during the Nixon era.

At each chronological change, the narrative perspective shifts to accommodate new characters: Harrison's long-suffering wife, Marjorie, offers her view of events, as do the couple's four children, describing the effects on their lives of their father's violence towards their mother.

But, convincing as these accounts are, you feel the point could have been made with greater economy.

CHRISTINA KONING

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The Times Bestseller List

HARDBACKS

	Title	No weeks	Last week	Weekly sales
1	TO THE HILT **Dick Francis** *(Michael Joseph, £15.99)*	1	1	2,722
3	ICON **Frederick Forsyth** *(Bantam, £16.99)*	1	3	1,157
3	LONGITUDE **Dava Sobel** *(Fourth Estate, £12)*	4	2	1,147
4	THE BRANDED MAN **Catherine Cookson** *(Bantam, £16.99)*	1	5	907
5	DESPERATION **Stephen King** *(Hodder, £16.99)*	2	4	659
6	ENEMY OF GOD **Bernard Cornwell** *(Michael Joseph, £15.99)*	1	14	471
7	GUNPOWDER PLOT **Antonia Fraser** *(Weidenfeld, £20)*	6	7	453
8	STORY FOR EUROPE **Will Self** *(Bloomsbury, £1)*	0	0	445
9	PRACTICAL COOKERY **Victor Ceserani** *(Hodder, £16.99)*	1	15	367
10	POCKET OXFORD DICTIONARY OF CURRENT ENGLISH **Ed. E. W. Fowler** *(OUP, £7.99)*	0	0	360
11	MAITRE MUSSARD'S BEQUEST **Patrick Suskind** *(Bloomsbury, £1)*	0	0	352
12	TOMB OF GOD **Richard Andrews** *(Little, Brown, £20)*	3	11	345
13	CHARITY **Len Deighton** *(HarperCollins, £16.99)*	1	6	345
14	LABRADOR FIASCO **Margaret Atwood** *(Bloomsbury, £1)*	0	0	341
15	BEANO BOOK: 1997 *(D. C. Thomson, £4.99)*	4	9	335
16	GREAT GRAMMAR BOOK **Jennie Maizels** *(Riverswift, £12.99)*	0	0	331
17	WAR WALKS: FROM AGINCOURT TO NORMANDY **Richard Holmes** *(BBC, £16.99)*	8	10	316
18	POPCORN **Ben Elton** *(Simon & Schuster, £12.99)*	8	19	316
19	THE REGULATORS **Richard Bachman** *(Hodder, £16.99)*	1	12	300
20	KEYS TO THE STREET **Ruth Rendell** *(Hutchinson, £15.99)*	1	8	290

PAPERBACKS

	Title	No weeks	Last week	Weekly sales
1	NOTES FROM A SMALL ISLAND **Bill Bryson** *(Black Swan, £6.99)*	7	2	3,710
2	GREEN MILE 6: COFFEY ON THE MILE **Stephen King** *(Penguin, £1.99)*	2	1	2,453
3	WINTER KING **Bernard Cornwell** *(Penguin, £5.99)*	1	7	2,409
4	THE OBSESSION **Catherine Cookson** *(Corgi, £5.99)*	1	4	2,409
5	THE HIGHWAY CODE **Dept. of Transport** *(HMSO, £0.99)*	9	5	1,864
6	WHIT **Iain Banks** *(Abacus, £6.99)*	0	0	1,845
7	THE HORSE WHISPERER **Nicholas Evans** *(Corgi, £5.99)*	16	3	1,452
8	HOPE **Len Dieghton** *(HarperCollins, £5.99)*	0	0	1,418
9	COLLINS GEM FRENCH DICTIONARY *(HarperCollins, £3.99)*	41	6	1,375
10	HIGH FIDELITY **Nick Hornby** *(Indigo, £5.99)*	24	17	1,286
11	SOPHIE'S WORLD **Jostein Gaarder** *(Phoenix, £6.99)*	39	7	1,211
12	MAYAN PROPHECIES **Adrian Geoffrey Gilbert** *(Element, £5.99)*	0	0	1,013
13	COLLINS GEM GERMAN DICTIONARY *(HarperCollins, £3.99)*	1	9	995
14	THE GHOST ROAD **Pat Barker** *(Penguin, £6.99)*	11	14	976
15	COMPLETE THEORY TEST FOR CARS AND MOTORCYCLES **Driving Standards Agency** *(HMSO, £9.99)*	26	11	971
16	SOCIOLOGY: THEMES AND PERSPECTIVES **Michael Haralambos** *(CollinsEducational, £16.75)*	0	0	933
17	A SPELL OF WINTER **Helen Dunmore** *(Penguin, £6.99)*	0	0	908
18	ENIGMA **Robert Harris** *(Arrow, £5.99)*	20	0	896
19	STAR WARS: SHIELD OF LIES **Michael P. Kube-McDowell** *(Bantam, £4.99)*	1	8	861
20	EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE **Daniel Goleman** *(Bloomsbury, £7.99)*	4	15	854

This Times *list monitored 41,199 titles representing high-street sales of £5.4 million during the week.*

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When Britannia waives the rules

FUTURISTIC thrillers set far ahead in time allow the reader a semblance of comfort. "Not in my lifetime" has the same ring as "not in my back yard", but Salaman's novel set in the year 2010 is far more unsettling for its sheer proximity, describing as it does a brutish Britain with all alien features of the present subtly magnified into terror.

A Labour government has failed: likewise a Conservative backlash. The central institutions, pushed and pulled by varieties of political correctness, no longer work. Order is achieved by the populace locking themselves indoors, and law is impotent against society's lack of faith in it. The underclass of unemployed and unemployable, created by technology's decimation of an uneducated workforce, veers between subversion, aggression and the need to be entertained. Children smash cars, knowing nobody dares prevent them.

In this milieu, Heather practises as a barrister, defending a charismatic man accused of murder, and falls in love with him. Her leader in the case is curiously disinterested, less so her partner, who sees the defendant as hot material for a television documentary. She is haunted by ghostly messages, gremlins inside her apartment and an increasing awareness of being an unwitting part of a sub-plot in which the gurus of the time plan to neutralise those who have nothing to offer society by immersing them in a cocoon of inescapable pleasure. Virtual reality, no less.

■ *A STATE OF SHOCK*
By Nicholas Salaman
HarperCollins, £16.99
ISBN 0 00 225008 X

Salaman: anarchic future

This is all very fine, except that the conspiracy is neither explained nor convincing and the caricatured conspirators themselves only vary between Machiavellian cleverness and clod-like stupidity.

But the strengths are twofold: firstly, in the creation of an atmosphere of confusion so cold that it is as insidious as fog; secondly, in the depiction of an ordinary, albeit talented, woman, falling apart.

The subtext of this sometimes patchy but severely chilling novel is the frightening nature of boredom and the seduction of half-truth. Salaman is one of the new breed who use the conventions of the crime novel to say much more. There is no moral and no solution, only warnings and a haunting twist.

FRANCES FYFIELD

● On August 24 we stated that bestseller lists other than those that BookTrack provides for us are rarely based on electronic information from the tills. Bookwatch, the other supplier of bestseller lists to national newspapers, uses electronic point-of-sale data for by far the greatest part of its weekly input.

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هكذا من الأصل

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Dads know best for stars in a class of their own
Page 5

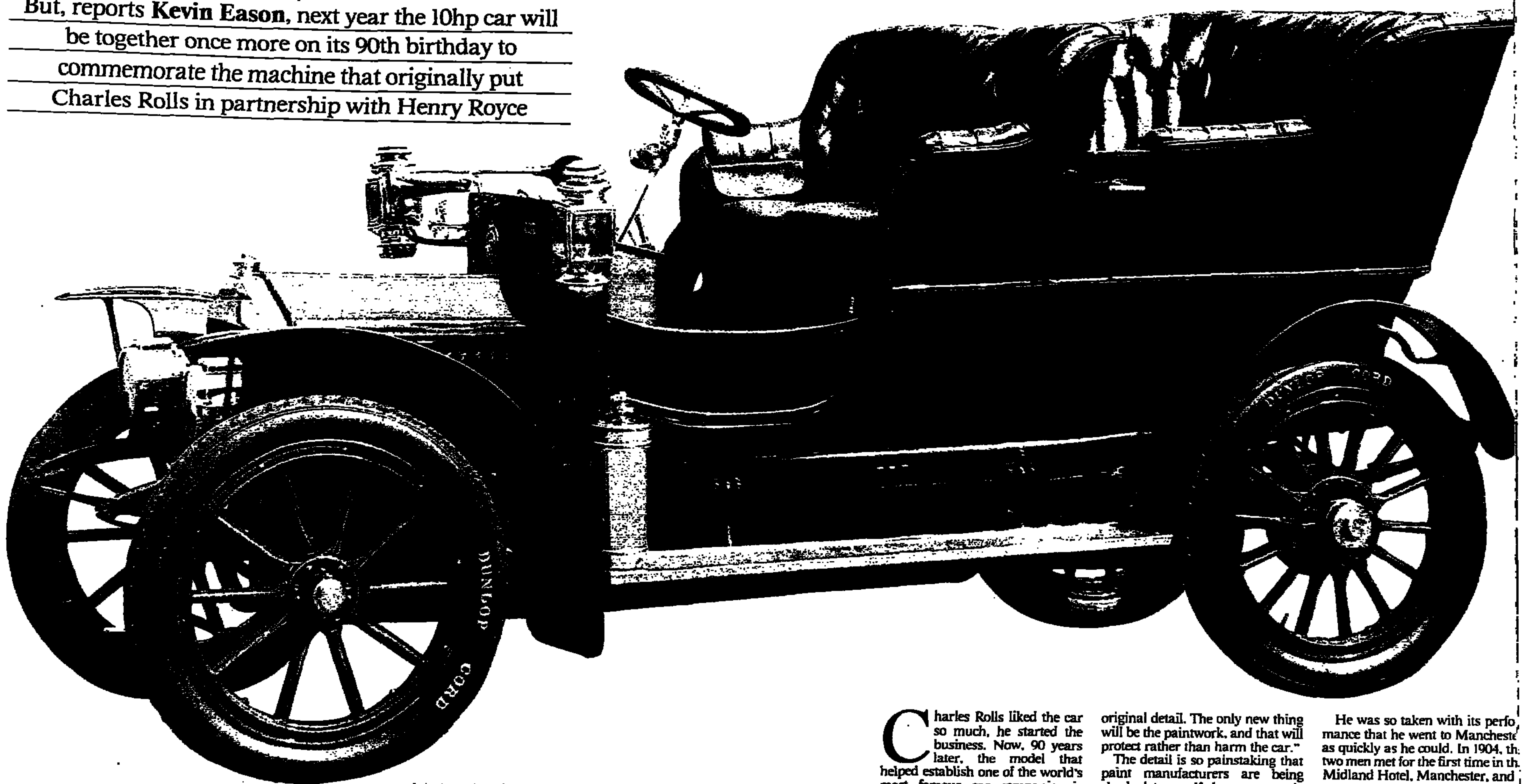
CAR 96

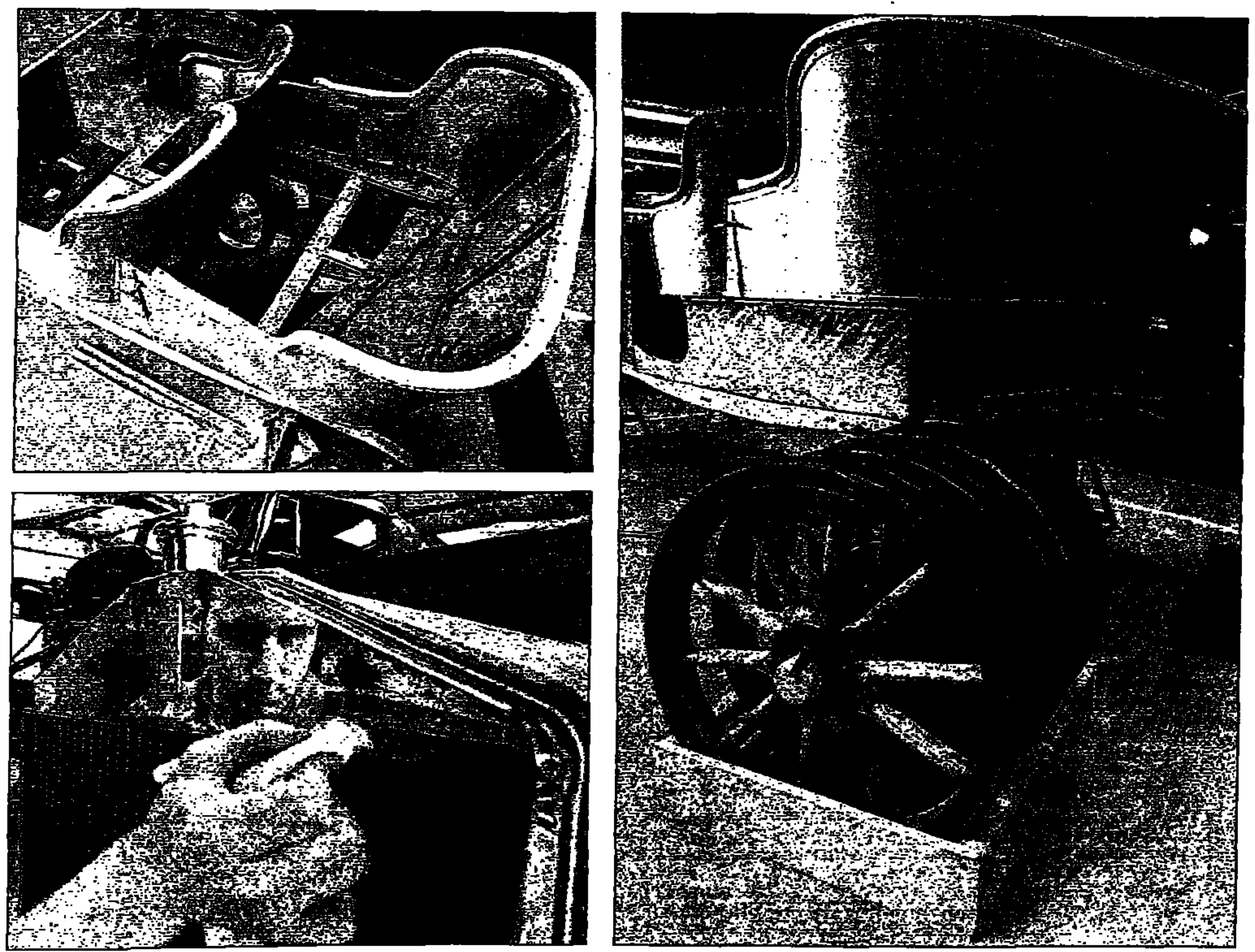
How Melanie turned her car into a fortress on wheels
Page 9

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21 1996

Stripped: model that made Rolls-Royce

But, reports **Kevin Eason**, next year the 10hp car will be together once more on its 90th birthday to commemorate the machine that originally put Charles Rolls in partnership with Henry Royce





The 10hp model in unrestored condition, top, is now unrecognisable as it undergoes complete refurbishment for its anniversary

Charles Rolls liked the car so much, he started the business. Now, 90 years later, the model that helped establish one of the world's most famous car companies is being restored to original condition. It is also the model that convinced Rólls that he had spotted a rare talent when he first met Henry Royce.

The 10hp model is one of only three which survive as emblems of the earliest days of Rolls-Royce. As it stands in the restoration works of P and A Wood in Essex, the bare wooden shell is hardly recognisable as a car, let alone a Rolls-Royce; only the gleaming brass radiator serves as a familiar symbol.

But as much as £50,000 and a year's work will restore the 10hp to the condition it was in when Sydney Gammell, an Aberdeen doctor, bought his dark-green four-seater in February, 1907. Dr Gammell adored his Rolls-Royce so much he could not bear to see it sold or scrapped when he thought its useful life was over in 1920.

His doughty daughter decided it should be given back to Rolls-Royce and drove it from Aberdeen to the company's original Cooke Street factory in Manchester — no mean feat in days when even major roads were rough and ready tracks and the car was open to the elements.

Rolls-Royce has kept the car since, but decided to return it to pristine condition in time for its 90th birthday — a job easier proposed than done, according to Andrew Wood. His team has stripped every nut, bolt and washer from the car while he and twin brother, Paul, have scoured records and archives for details of the car's 13 years away from the company.

"The car has to be as original as we can possibly keep it," says Andrew. "It would be easy to put new parts on to the car, but that would not be the original 10hp that Henry Royce built. So we restore every part we can, keeping all the original detail. The only new thing will be the paintwork, and that will protect rather than harm the car."

The detail is so painstaking that paint manufacturers are being checked to see if they can supply paint from the period. Connolly, the family firm that has supplied leather for Rolls-Royce from the start, dug deep into its vaults to find an original sample of black leather.

The small, dusty rectangle — a hide thicker and coarser than those used today — arrived at Wood's showroom by courier with a covering letter from Connolly director Anthony Hussey, which said: "It is like gold dust so please don't cut it and don't lose it, or a spell will fall on you and your stitching will never run straight." The threat was enough: Andrew Wood handed the piece immediately to a courier from Rolls-Royce who was instructed to take it by limousine to Crewe, keeping it in sight all the way.

The Wood brothers are the world's foremost experts on Rolls-Royce restoration, six years ago completing the legendary 1907 Silver Ghost — now insured for £15 million — with its silver and brass bodywork. Their devotion to detail is astonishing and their love for the cars shines like a beacon in the often cynical world of motoring.

"There were no cars like Rolls-Royces," says Andrew. "Royce was a genius, a brilliant engineer and the gap between these cars and other cars of their time was astonishing. The Silver Ghost was a huge step forward in its day."

The 10hp is not so highly valued, but plays as great a part in the company legend. A 10-horsepower car was the first model built by Royce, a Manchester engineer, in 1903. Admittedly based on a Deaucaville he had imported, Royce introduced a series of clever innovations to improve performance. Rolls, a wealthy adventurer, was selling imported cars in London when he came across the little 10hp.

He was so taken with its perfo mance that he went to Mancheste as quickly as he could. In 1904, th two men met for the first time in th Midland Hotel, Manchester, and new company, Rolls-Royce, wa formed. The 10hp assembly line i Cooke Street only ran until 1906, s the Wood brothers are mystifie how the doctor managed to get model new from the factory in 190 It might have been the last of th line, or made as a favour by Royce

In any event, it is an excellen example of Royce's distinctive engi neering style and ingenuity: at time when differentials were al most unknown, for example, the 10hp had one; the lubricating bo was made to send exact droplets o oil in sequences of between one and eight a minute to the clutch gearbox and engine, and the cast iron pistons in the two cylinders unusually work in opposition, wit one up when the other is down, a principle Royce believed gave him better balance and smoothness.

The handmade ash frame and steel springs are among the components that Wood's craftsmen are having to restore, also by hand, over painstaking hours. The nearside rear door is a crafty dummy; to get on to the rear seats, the front seat actually tips up and outwards, an unusual feature rarely seen on any car and now working again.

Today, the 10hp is little more than a collection of bits, spread over Wood's workshop at Great Dunmow and Rolls-Royce's own factory at Crewe, where craftsmen are restoring the engine.

By February though, it will be gleaming and ready for a sentimental journey being planned by Rolls-Royce executives ... back to Aberdeen for a visit to doctor Gammell's family to say thanks for the donation of one of the company's most historic cars.

Life with a Rolls, page 3

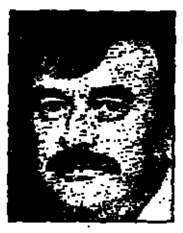
Forget when it was built.
Consider who built it.

Mercedes-Benz
Used Cars

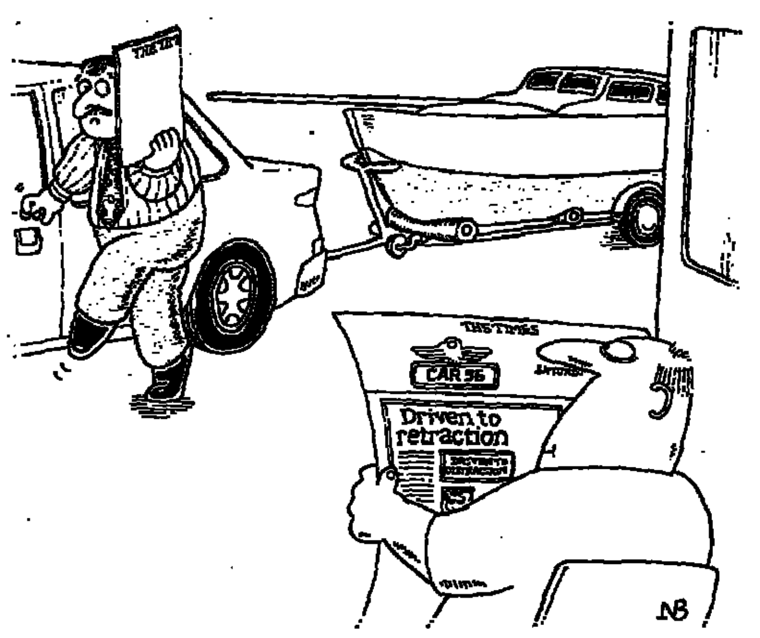
Hypocrisy is a nasty word; but what other fits a columnist who attacks caravans yet has a boat behind his car?

Oh, did I stomp on your tow?

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard



Correction: readers of this column over the past couple of years may have gained the impression that part of *Driven to Distraction's* remit was to encourage the removal from our motorways of anyone towing anything, and in particular people towing caravans.

The impression may have been given that caravans were the curse of the age, that they were hideous tin cans which swayed along in the inside lane, often in convoy, causing grief to other road users as they headed for some otherwise unspoilt stretch of coastline.

On at least one occasion, I have widened these thoughts to include people towing boats and other icons of the leisure age. I may have suggested, speaking as a keen voyager on the high seas, that boats belonged on the water. They look ridiculous behind a car.

We now come to an incident last weekend at Sedgemoor services on the M5. I pulled into the overflow car park and got out of the car. As I walked towards the restaurant, I passed a man sitting on a plastic chair outside his caravan. He was reading a copy of *Car 96*. It was open at this page.

When I returned from remortgaging my house in exchange for a pot of coffee and something undefinable accompanied by chips, the aforementioned man was still his reading *Car 96*. He looked up from his newspaper, looked at me, looked at my car, looked back at his newspaper and looked at me again.

I gained the impression from these small but significant head movements that he had made a connection between me and the photograph on this page (I knew this would happen one day). I got into my car and began to move out of the car park, driving very carefully. The man with *The Times* watched me for some time. He knew why I was being careful. I was towing a boat.

I therefore wish to make it clear that anyone who has deduced that I oppose people towing caravans and boats up and down motorways has completely misunderstood my position: you really must read these words more carefully. But I apologise if I have inadvertently contributed to this distressing state of affairs.

Motorways are for all-comers, and long may they remain so. What we choose to convey along them is entirely our business and we do not want anyone telling us any different. It's a free country, for heaven's sake.

Whatever is Nick Scheele, the chairman and chief executive of Jaguar, talking about? He says that in the year 2020, motorways may be computerised conveyor belts, with vehicles locking into tracks on the road surface and cruising at constant speeds.

Is this a joke? Apparently not. Scheele says that systems using short-range radar would help keep cars the right distance apart, but drivers would have to stay alert in case the computer system failed.

So the idea is to have cars travelling a fixed distance apart, but they would still need drivers in case the technology packed up. Not much comfort there, I would have thought. So we need to refine this idea.

My own view is that these tracks should be one-way only and instead of having a complex computer system and radar to keep vehicles a set distance apart, a much simpler system of red and green lights would be used, controlled from a central point. The individual vehicles could even be joined together, thus removing the risk of one colliding with another. Such a system would virtually remove traffic jams, the biggest cause of delays.

I like the sound of this, after all. I am off to the patents office, before someone else gets in on it. There is a fortune to be made here. I have decided to call it a railway.

Insurers play tough as rates rise

DENZIL MCNEELANCE

Dr Sandy Scott's car was left unattended for just a few seconds, feet from his front door. The theft cost him £20,000

Vaughan Freeman on how motor insurance premiums are set to leap by up to a quarter as firms try to end their bitter price war

Motor insurance premiums will jump by as much as 25 per cent next year. Even the most modest forecasts are for rises averaging 10 per cent for the next two to three years as more insurers get out of the price war with direct line companies which have discounted premiums heavily over the past few years.

Premium increases have already averaged 8 per cent since May, says Motor Advice, a consultancy in London. James Wootten, a director, says: "The fall in insurance rates has finally come to an end, with the first quarterly increase in motor rates since February, 1994. The prolonged period of falling prices was caused by vigorous cost-cutting by new direct insurers anxious to attract business away from the conventional household names and High Street brokers.

"This year, many insurance companies were unhappy with premiums being so low, and introduced a number of increases."

A Motor Advice survey of leading insurance firms shows that between May and August this year, the average cost of fully comprehensive cover for a male aged 30 driving a Ford Fiesta, rose 13.5 per cent if supplied by General Accident Direct, by 13.4 per cent from Dial Direct, 12.6 per cent up from Touchline, 9 per cent from Preferred Direct and 8 per cent from Guardian Direct.

Insurance companies, especially those operating dial direct services, have been so competitive in undercutting rates, says Becky Hadley of AA Insurance, that it was inevitable premiums would rise. She says: "Some insurers are putting up their rates for certain categories, for instance for motorists with more powerful cars, younger drivers, and less experienced drivers. They are also playing around with their insurance categories. But we believe some motorists can expect to see increases in their premiums of around 10 per cent, while others see no increase."

The advice is to shop around for the cheapest prices, and Ms Hadley says: "Typically, motorists who see their insurance premiums falling do not bother to shop around. When the premium rises, though, they make three or four calls looking for a cheaper policy."

The rises come against a background of falling car crime, the biggest component in forcing up premiums recently. Last year, car crime cost insurance companies £433 million, down from £464 million in 1993 and £499 million in 1994.

But insurers have hardened their attitudes to motorists since taking big losses to stay in the race as direct line telephone insurers continually cut the price of premiums to challenge the traditional insurance heirarchy in the High Street.

Hugh Robertson, who sits on the motor panel of the British Insurance and Investment Brokers Association, adds: "Recently consumers, the motorists, have had things very much their own way. We have seen premiums for new business drop by around 35 per cent in the past 18 months.

"Now, the insurance companies are all playing chicken, waiting to see who will be the first one to raise their premiums. But once one moves the rest will follow suit."

Malcolm Tarling, at the Association of British Insurers, says that insurers are trying to get back lost income. "Premium rates for motor insurance have been falling over the last couple of years and I think they have fallen as far as they reasonably can," he adds.

Doctor branded as 'reckless' for a 20-second lapse

A driver loses a theft claim for leaving his keys in his car, writes **Tony Dawe**

A SHORT sprint up his front path has ended up costing Sandy Scott £20,000. For while the Oxfordshire doctor was running back into his house to collect some papers, his Volkswagen Corrado full of medical equipment was stolen.

The car has never been seen again but Dr Scott has been unable to recoup the loss because Legal & General, his insurance company, has refused to pay out. The Insurance Ombudsman has backed the company and described the doctor as "reckless".

The reason for such criticism of a respected member of the community is that he left his keys in the car. "Despite the fact that it was broad daylight, that I live in a cul-de-sac in a small rural village in the Cotswolds and that the car was left for only a few seconds, the ombudsman has declined any support," he says.

Dr Scott's dismay increased when his attempts to claim for the medical equipment under two other policies were also rejected. "The whole episode took some 20 seconds which, with the value of the contents as well as the value of my Corrado, works out at about £1,000 per second of loss," he adds.

Dr Scott's case was mentioned briefly and anonymously in a report from the Insurance Ombudsman earlier this year, but he decided to publicise his complaints after reading of the similar treatment meted out to Simon Collins (*Car 96*, August 3).

A BMW belonging to Collins was stolen when he left it with the keys inside on a garage forecourt in Surrey while he bought a sandwich. GAN, his insurance company, also refused to pay up.

"Deny any claim seems to be the precept of every motor insurance company," says Dr Scott. "I have always paid my premiums in good faith but have been the victim of petty mindedness.

"I have been a GP for 25 years and was on duty one Sunday when I left my house to go to my surgery to see a patient. Realising that I had left some papers behind, I got out of my car, crossed the 20 feet to my front door and started up my stairs. At that moment, I heard my car start up and on rushing down was in time to watch it disappear, never to be seen again.

"I was astonished when Legal & General rejected my claim because I cannot accept that I was reckless to leave my keys in the car for a few seconds in such a quiet, out-of-the-way spot.

"Worse was to come. The car had contained all the equipment and medical ephemera of a rural general practioner. As well as the medical bag, there were various crash bags, ECG machine, a defibrillator and nebuliser, portable oxygen and much more.

"The insurance company covering my surgery equipment declined to pay on the grounds that this equipment was not its responsibility as it had been taken out of the surgery. When I approached the insurance company covering personal effects and household contents, it, too, declined to pay as most of the items were for professional use and not its responsibility. Was I expected to pay an extra premium to move equipment which would obviously be travelling with me?"

While Dr Scott has been left much poorer and powerless to beat the insurance companies, Collins, an oil company executive of Weybridge, Surrey, has decided to pursue his claim. "I have been advised to write to the chief executive of GAN giving the firm 14 days to review the case and, assuming it does not reverse the decision, then progress to the ombudsman and, if necessary, to a legal redress," he says.

Key catch in theft cover

Insurance companies are refusing to pay out if you leave the ignition keys in the car, reports Tony Dawe

He looked up from the shop: the BMW was gone

Light machines top motorbike theft league

■ SMALL motorcycles under 125cc are up to five times more likely to be stolen than more valuable machines, according to figures issued by Norwich Union, Britain's biggest motorcycle insurer.

The company's files show that only one motorcycle in the top 20 of those models most often stolen was over 125cc because low value bikes without security systems were easy to steal and ride.

Even if owners fitted immobilisers, the bikes were small enough to be lifted or wheeled into vans or cars and alarms could be almost as expensive as some of the cheapest motorcycles.

Derek Plummer, Norwich union's marketing manager, says: "It seems that most of the bikes targeted are either trail bikes or 'workaday' bikes used by teenagers and commuters to get to and from work or college. Small bikes are often parked in accessible areas and usually have a lower level of built-in security.

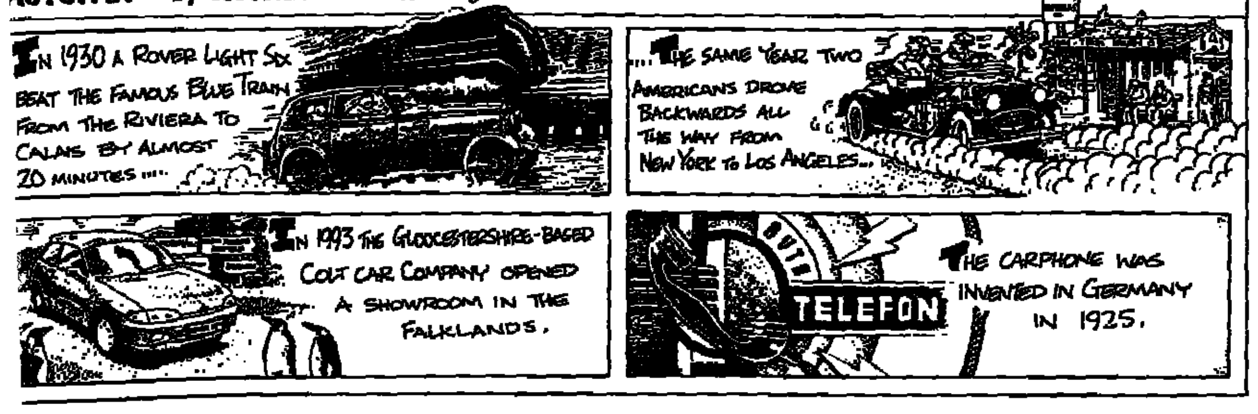
"They are also lighter and easier for thieves to wheel away or throw into the back of a van. That means low value bikes top the list of targets for joyriders who race them and then dump them."

■ NORWICH UNION issued a list of the top five bikes most likely to be stolen and advised owners to invest in a lock and chain until manufacturers come up with cheap security equipment which would be as effective as those offered by carmakers.

The warning comes as sales of motorcycles grow strongly, up 17 per cent so far this year with the strongest growth in the sub-125cc class of mopeds and scooters, sales of which have increased 35 per cent.

Most likely to go, the worst five for theft: the Kawasaki KDX 125 (4.6 times more likely than average to be stolen), Suzuki TSb 125R (4.4 times more likely), Yamaha DT 125LC (3.9 times), Yamaha DT 125R (3.6 times), Kawasaki KMX 125 (3.4 times more than average).

AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long


IN 1930 A ROVER LIGHT SIX BEAT THE FAMOUS BLUE TRAIN FROM THE RIVIERA TO CALAIS BY ALMOST 20 MINUTES ...
... THE SAME YEAR TWO AMERICANS DROVE BACKWARDS ALL THE WAY FROM NEW YORK TO LOS ANGELES...
IN 1993 THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE-BASED COLT CAR COMPANY OPENED A SHOWROOM IN THE FALKLANDS.
THE CARPHONE WAS INVENTED IN GERMANY IN 1925.
TELEFON

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● LONDON
B2200 West Ewell; temporary lights on Chessington Road, allow for delays both ways.
A4089 Wembley Park down to one lane for roadworks on Bridge Road outside the underground station.
A3216 Chelsea Bridge; daily roadworks 8am-6pm both ways, expect delays.
A244 Feltham; waterworks have closed Hounslow Road at the Bader Drive junction.

● SOUTH EAST
A423 Banbury; temporary lights in place 24 hours a day on the Southam Road until October 10.
A603 Bedford Bypass; temporary lights at the Sandy Lane junction until further notice.
A4155 Bourne End; temporary traffic lights will control the traffic on Marlow Road for 24 hours a day between Sheepbridge Lane and Cessington Road until September 21.
A339 Reading; the Inner Distribution Road will be closed at various points overnight from 9pm-6am until October 20.
M25 junctions 6-10; major ongoing roadworks both ways between Godstone and the A3, speed limits and short-notice closures at night will cause delays until further notice.

● SOUTH WEST
M5 junction 17; roadworks until September 22 on the Bristol West Roundabout junction are likely to cause delays to all traffic wishing to join or leave the motorway at this point.
A38 West Huntspill; temporary lights for roadworks will regularly cause delays across Bleak Bridge until November 24.
A429 Malmesbury; temporary lights in place 24 hours a day on Burton Hill until September 22.
A3049 Bournemouth; resurfacing work underway on Holdenhurst Road. Major delays are expected until September 21.
A395 Pipers Pool; roadworks will cause long delays throughout the day near Launceston until September 24.
A386 between Bideford and Torrington is closed to all traffic for roadworks. Diversion via the A388 until September 20.

● MIDLANDS & EAST ANGLIA
M42 junctions 3a-4 down to one lane overnight (9pm-6am) both ways between Birmingham and Shirley until September 23.
A449, Hereford and Worcester, near Ledbury; temporary lights in the Malvern area until 16th October.
A52 Saxondale roundabout; lane closures for roadworks, with temporary lights controlling the traffic until September 30.
A41 Wolverhampton; temporary lights are in place on Bilston Road at the Canal Bridge between Eagle Street and Chillington Street until March 1997.

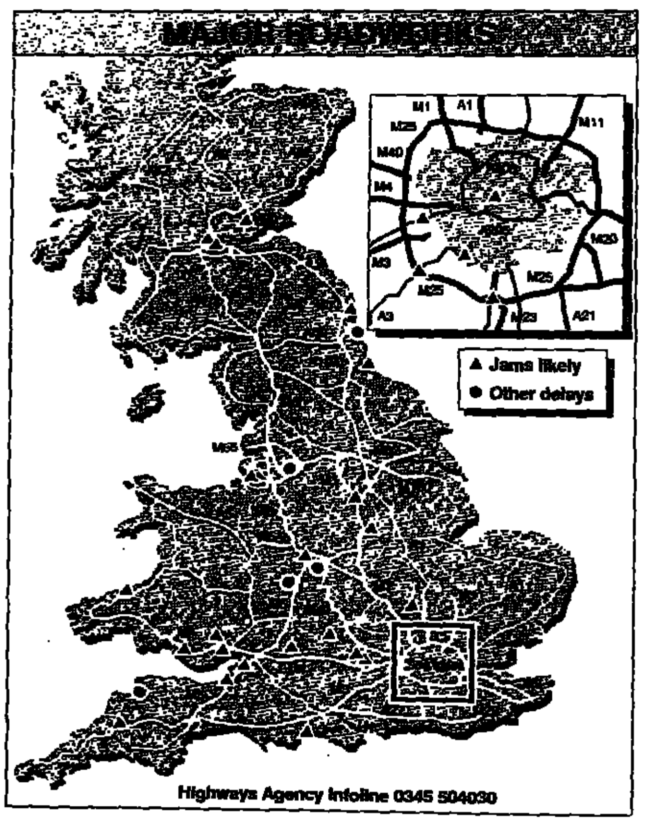
● NORTH
A663 Chadderton; major roadworks continue on the Broadway, traffic is down to just one lane each way until December 1.
A565 Liverpool City Centre; great Howard Street is down to one lane between Boundary Street and Leeds Street for cable works until October 7.
A630 Rotherham; temporary lights in place on weekdays on Fitzwilliam Road, but closed at weekends until October 20.
A190 Blyth; temporary lights on Main Street, Seghill near Blackworth Lane until October 31.
A1018 Ryhope, Tyne & Wear; traffic restrictions in operation on Stockton Road near the Hospital until November 15.
A689 Hartlepool; restrictions caused by roadworks, which will be in operation on Stockton Road between Greatham and the Lodge Roundabout until September 28.

● WALES
A482 Aberaeron; the Upper Aberaeron Bridge is closed for reconstruction work until March 1997. Diversions will take vehicles via Panteg Road and the A487, where there are temporary lights in operation.
A4051 Malpas Road; ongoing roadworks with lane closures are in place between the Woodlands Roundabout and junction 26 of the M4.
A472 Pontypool; expect delays through the contraflow now in place between Pontymoile and the Heron Roundabout.
M4 junctions 34-35; down to two lanes each way with a 50mph speed limit until October 31.

● SCOTLAND
M8 junction 15, Glasgow; restrictions on the slip roads at Townhead. The westbound Stirling Road entry slip and eastbound Castle Street slips are closed until November 1.
A93 Glasgow Road; temporary lights control the traffic along the whole length of the road until October 1.
A898 Erskine Bridge; only open to light vehicles and motorcycles, HGVs have to follow a diversion until December 30.

● NORTHERN IRELAND
County Antrim, Ballymena; construction work on the Northern Distributor Road at North Road will cause regular delays to traffic at peak times, until September 1, 1997.
A2 Carrickfergus; various restrictions in operation on Larne Road at the junction with Rawbrae Road. Expect delays at peak periods until September 30.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



Highways Agency Infoline 0345 504030

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brakes put on Fiestas

FORD this week recalled more than 80,000 Fiestas made at Dagenham in Essex for brake checks. The company says some owners complained that they had to press the brake pedal too hard, and identified possible contamination of the brake fluid. Owners of the Fiesta or Courier van made between June 1995 and July this year should contact their dealer for a free checkup.

Ball bored

STRANGE but True number one: for reasons which shall remain unfathomable, Green Flag, the breakdown people, asked England soccer team members what they thought of advertising hoardings on motorways. Breathlessly it reports that nine out of 11 players gave a thumbs down. So now you know.

Lifetime guarantee

Strange but True number two: murder was the leading cause of death in car-repair shops, showrooms and filling stations in America last year. More than 120 people died, while five workers were murdered on car assembly lines. The good news is that murders in new car showrooms fell from 13 in 1994 to four last year. So that's all right then.

What, no Bond Bug?

JAMES Bond gets his own display next month at the Paris Motor Show. Bond cars from 17 movies are on show, ranging from the DB5 to the Citroen 2CV featured in *For Your Eyes Only*. Brittany Ferries is offering a package: £139 for two people, including two nights bed and breakfast. Details on 0990-360360.

... the main purpose of upwards, ever upwards.

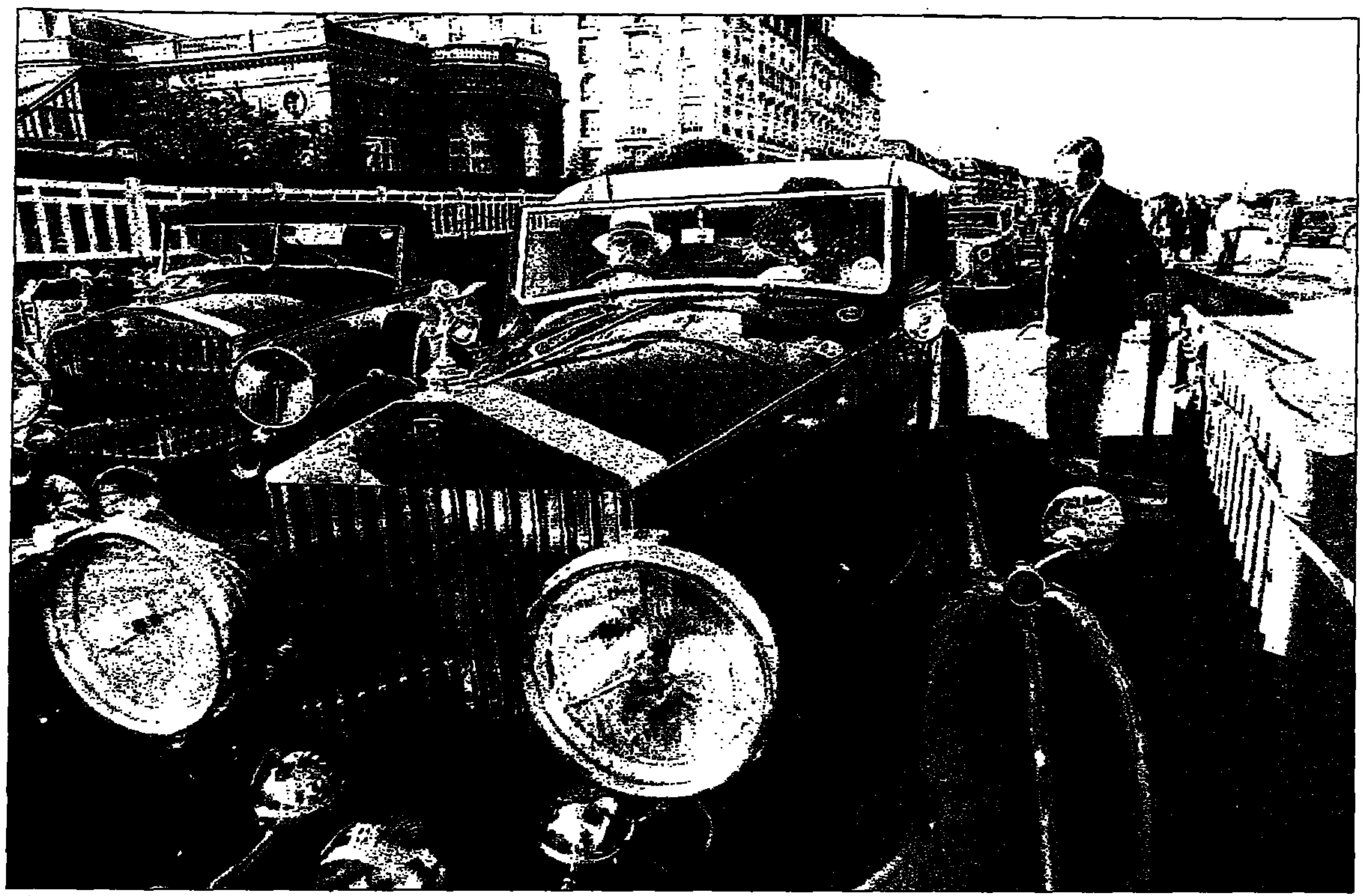
Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John [illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Sue Baker joined the longest-ever cavalcade of Rolls-Royces and Bentleys, at the smartest rally in Europ

Normandy's smartest invasion


The 176-car Deauville rally was marred by a collision between a Bentley and a local Renault, and the original Silver Ghost was nearly smashed by a Citroën

Chandeliers at breakfast, smoked salmon and champagne for lunch, and dinner in the marbled splendour of a casino. Three barons, a count, three lieutenant-colonels and a deputy lord lieutenant among the drivers: this was no ordinary car rally.

Deauville, the Normandy resort, was host to the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club's Euro Rally. The manicured town was put into suspended animation last week by a 176-car procession, the longest cavalcade of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars ever staged.

With French police in squads of Peugeots shepherding the procession, the trundling queue stretched all the way from the lavish seafront Hotel Royal, which was the rally's headquarters, to the Hippodrome, where never before had so much horsepower been held in such restraint as the cars lined up to be judged for their pernickety perfection in a concours d'elegance.

Before the cavalcade began, the talk was not of records, but of derring-do and near disasters. Just as the rally started, a British Corniche owner faxed headquarters saying his car had collided with a Peugeot in Basingstoke, and as he couldn't come could he please have a refund.

An embarrassed Frenchman arrived with one entire side of his Silver Shadow mortally blemished. He confessed to driving off the road after falling asleep at the wheel. A German owner sported a pristine new hood on his beautiful dark green 1938 Bentley Tourer and had a stirring tale to tell of the original hood being ripped right off by wind roaring through the car's open sides as it came by train from Berlin.

He engaged the services of a Cologne coachbuilder, found by chance in the phone book, who agreed to work through the night to fashion a replacement. It was completed at 3am and the owner departed by road to Normandy, only to have a tyre burst on the autobahn near Aachen.

The mishaps continued. Just as the cavalcade in Deauville was about to begin, a woman driving a 1955 Bentley S-series Continental collided with a Renault. Pride took a bigger denting than the car. Potentially the most disastrous incident of all was the event's nearest miss: AX 201, the original Silver Ghost, the most famous Rolls-Royce of them all and the most valuable car in the world — insured for £15 million — was the guest star of the cavalcade but narrowly avoided catastrophe when a lame-brained Citroën driver swung suddenly into its path.

Even then, the Silver Ghost was making sounds like the clopping hooves of a slightly arthritic Shetland pony. Despite liberal spraying of water, AX 201's cherry wood wheels were suffering the unwelcome effects of dryness in the fine weather and were clicking their contraction.

Deauville was temporarily full of Mr Toads from nine nationalities, and there was much joshing between drivers. A Frenchman, whose 1953 R-Type Standard Saloon sported a diving amphibian mascot, was teased by a British chum: "So now you're a frog with a toad on his bonnet."

A lively contingent from Essex used the running board of Southend stockbroker Ben Grew's 1923 Barker-bodied 20HP Tourer as a bench seat for their picnic lunch. The car's original owner was the Nizan of Hyderabad and it has a flamboyant horn shaped like a boa constrictor. On a previous rally, Grew revealed, the car caught fire on a train in Italy. The repair bill was £19,000.

Parked alongside was a 1928 New Phantom Boat-tail Tourer, 19-feet long with a massive pointed tail. Its owner, Hornchurch builders' merchant Malcolm Law, joked that the car represented "a hell of a lot of bricks and blocks". He and wife Josie have been club members for 19 years. "It keeps us poor but it keeps us happy. Our entire social life revolves around this silly old, ruddy car," he said wearily.

Law also suffered a mishap on a previous rally. He backed the car into a lake. "I'd been drinking champagne. After we hauled it out some wag stuck a notice on it saying 'boat trips every hour'."

Despite their sybaritic image, some of the early cars are sparse on creature comforts. Liz Field wore a lavish hooded silver fox coat over a ski suit and wellies for the drive from London to Deauville in her husband's 1912 Silver Ghost. She recently travelled to America for a weekend seminar in Pennsylvania called "Ghosts for Gals", a kind of automotive survival course organised by an American owner's wife for other women whose husbands own early Rolls-Royces.

She says that when they married, her husband did not want children, so they struck a deal. "I could have children if he could have a Rolls-Royce. So I had two children but now he's got six Rolls-Royces." This one, nicknamed Bertie, has a formidable thirst. "It's not so much a question of how many miles per gallon, it's about two hours to a tankful." It is just as well that its owner's business is thriving. He manufactures printing machines. They print money.

Lily livery: the Bentley frog embler

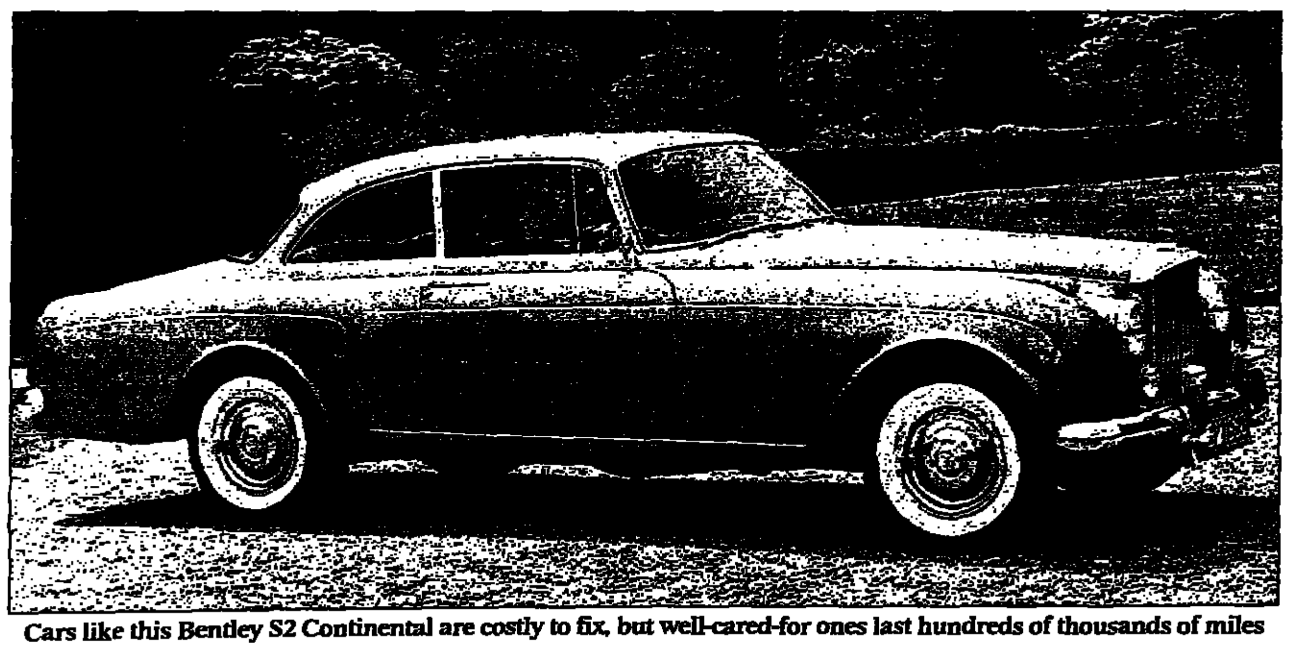
Top club or four wheel

HOME TO the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' C is The Hunt House, an imposing 1860s li building in the Northamptonshire villag Paulerspury. Built as the headquarters of Grafton Hunt, it now houses the orig factory documentation of more than 100, of the world's most opulent cars. The comp believes that more than 75 per cent of all ever made survive today, and the clu official custodian of the Rolls-Royce archi from 1904 to the Silver Shadow.

The building's traditional character hi remarkable modern facilities. Discreetly c cealed behind the old stable block, which been converted into a comprehensiv equipped car workshop, is a 250-seat lect hall. The stable yard has been gravelled a display area.

THE CLUB has nearly 8,500 members, a th of them overseas. You do not have to ow Rolls-Royce or Bentley to be a member, most do. The annual meeting, held this yea Althorp, is the largest gathering of Ro Royce and Bentley cars in the world.

It is an immensely wealthy club. Under canny steerage of Eric Barrass, a reti Lieutenant-Colonel who was club secretary more than 30 years, it has amassed consi able wealth, including a headquarters valu at £1.5 million and assets of around £500.0 in the bank.


Cars like this Bentley S2 Continental are costly to fix, but well-cared-for ones last hundreds of thousands of miles

Cheap to buy — but not to run

Stuart Birch finds the real price of a second-hand Rolls or Bentley

The facts and figures are a glittering array of temptation: 6.75-litre V8 engine, parchment hide upholstery, burr walnut measured in square feet, air conditioning, lambswool rugs, craftsmanship throughout its 17ft 8in length. Behind its colour-coded, steel-mesh radiator grille, twin fans turn like aircraft propellers.

This is the Bentley Eight. The price? No, not £100,000-plus: a good, mid-1980s, one-owner model could be yours for £25,000. Just to get that into perspective, a new Ford Scorpio 24-valve Ultima is £29,345, a Rover Sterling, £29,086, and the cheapest 7-series BMW, £35,850.

"The Bentley is ten times better than current mass-produced executive cars at those prices. Unlike them, in a year's time, its residual price is likely to be much as it is today," says Paul Wood, who, co-runs Rolls-Royce and Bentley distributors P and A Wood at Great Dunmow, Essex.

And they are durable, says Paul, pointing to a dark-blue Bentley Eight. "We sold it to its one owner in 1988 and it has covered 188,000 miles. We see it regularly every 6,000 miles for servicing. The owner has no plans to sell it and enjoys driving it."

But beware before you think of buying: a service for this car typically costs about £1,000. So basic servicing costs for the Eight's life so far at today's prices have been at least £31,000.

If extra work were needed on the Bentley — a new set of for example — the bill might rise to £2,000. A complete Rolls-Royce or Bentley exhaust is typically £1,000 but Paul says it is unusual for the whole system to need replacing at once. A new set of door seals costs around £500 fitted.

Fuel consumption for the Eight is typically 10mpg around town, 18mpg on the motorway," he says. "Rolls-Royce engines are designed to use oil. Typical consumption is 500 miles to a litre, so it's worth checking regularly, but post-1987 cars are better."

If an owner does not check both oil and water regularly the cost of engine damage can be daunting. A just-completed Bentley Mk VI six-cylinder engine overhaul totalled £15,000 with auxiliaries. "But properly looked after, these engines really can last for ever. We have never known a Royce engine wear out," says Paul. "An S2 Continental which we have maintained since 1968 has done 437,000 miles; it had one engine overhaul at 214,000 miles."

As well as the Bentley Eight, the Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, Bentley Turbo R and Mulsanne from the 1980s are also tempting buys. A 1989 Mulsanne would be around £35,000 in first-class condition; a 1990 with reactive suspension another £10,000.

If by now you are reaching for your building society passbook and looking around the sitting room to see what you might sell, you might pause a moment to consider what sort of emotional tie a Rolls-Royce or Bentley can become.

One customer has owned a 1959 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud I from new. He wants it restored to as-new condition. Cost: £100,000 — but its resale value will probably be only

"For many people, though, it is an emotional thing: the work does not simply equate to cash. They've lived with these cars for many years and they're part of the family, like a house or fine furniture."

Another customer was given a Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud III Mulliner Park Ward fixed-head coupé in 1964 by proud parents when he graduated from Harvard. He later parted company with it but recently found it again, bought it and is having it restored. That is also costing a six-figure sum.

Remarkable sights await visitors to the P and A Wood showroom. On the day I called, its contents included a 1986 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit at £28,500; a 1981 version at £17,500 and a 1976 Bentley T (18,000 miles from new) at £26,500.

A 1958 Bentley S1 Continental Park Ward drophead coupé was £165,000, with a 1931 Vanden Plas Open Tourer for the same money. Concours cars included a 1959 Bentley S1, "totally original" at £72,000, a superb Bentley Mk VI 1947 Gurney Nutting Sedanca Coupé at £140,000.

They were all sensationally beautiful and more desirable than almost anything else on the road. They have elegance, and drive as sweetly as many new cars even though their engineering is decades old.

The temptation was almost too great to resist ... but, thankfully for my bank manager, I was able to put my financial Satan behind me — only to dream of owning one of these machines one day in the

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...and ...the main purpose of upwards, ever upwards. | Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John ...

هكذا من الأصل

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Kevin Eason reports on junior karting, a competitive family sport that can lead to motor racing's top le

Formula One driver David Coulthard offers trackside tips to 14-year-old Luke Hines (left); father and son team Ian and Ben Franklin, aged 12 (centre); and aspiring racers show off their cornering skills

Racing stars of the future start with a kart

Faces clustered around the £60,000 motorhome waiting to see the star driver emerge from his brief moments of rest between qualifying and final. They gawped as the door opened and gasped as he wiped his eyes, searching for the food and drink to sustain him through the race: a packet of salt and vinegar crisps and a bottle of Lucozade.

Little Lewis Hamilton is only 11 years old and already he is a star at the race track.

Lewis looks as good as Muhammed Ali but moves like a bee and stings like one too: only in karting three years, he is British champion, Formula Cadet champion, Five Nations champion, STP champion and TV Kartmaster champion. He wrapped up his 35-race season last weekend at the McLaren Mercedes Champions of the Future event where he was so far ahead on points, he could afford not to race.

Just as well, because his kart broke down on lap one — which gave dad the problem of fixing it. Tony Hamilton, a computer consultant, got the five-horsepower 60cc kart — enough to get Lewis's jockey weight to 60mph — to the chequered flag first enough times this year.

Next season, a team of specialists will take over because Lewis, from Stevenage, Hertfordshire, is on the track to the Big Time with sponsors queuing to pay for a season which costs around £30,000 to keep an 11-year-old in winning ways. Karting is one of the biggest junior sports in the country, attracting hundreds of wannabe Damon Hills and David Coulthards.

Lewis already has the financial help which means he will have a competitive kart as he moves through the ranks where top teams have pit garages as busy and sophisticated as any adult race outfit. But for dozens of drivers, karting is a family event where dad does the repairs and mum makes sure the race overalls are clean, the helmet polished. Mum and dad scrimp and save to buy the £2,000 karts, the overalls, helmet, gloves, spare parts, tyres and transport; on race day, mum becomes pit crew to push the kart to the grid while dad worries about strategy.

Karting king, aged 11: Lewis Hamilton has swept the board

The coolest people trackside are the kids themselves, many experienced racers with brains as icy as Schumacher's and skills that would terrify ordinary road drivers twice their age.

At Buckmore Park in Kent last weekend, Ian Franklin busily repaired a shattered brake drum for his 12-year-old son, Ben. Mum insisted the brakes should be perfect because Ben broke his arm in a crash last year which put him out of the sport for five months.

"I can't watch," said Karen Franklin, as she sat in the family camper van playing cards with daughter Joanna, who is ten. "After that accident, I am always terrified when he goes out on the track."

No wonder, for these junior karters drive like maniacs, careering into corners, correcting oversteer with flicks of the wheel, powering out into straights and overtaking with no hint of fear.

Coulthard — former karting champion, now McLaren Formula One driver whose own sponsored drivers Niki Cleland and Ryan Dalziel took part — says karting teaches drivers how to overtake. "You learn about how to set up the kart, how to overtake, how to control the car — all things you need later in racing. It's a great way to start because it is pure racing."

Ron Dennis, McLaren's managing director, sponsored the event to encourage the stars of the future. He says: "This series was our way of giving something back to the sport and a way of encouraging the kids who in ten years' time will be Formula One stars, we hope."

A dream shared by children like Lewis, who already has his heart set on being a star. Yet he is so seasoned that he was unabashed by rubbing shoulders with Coulthard or being congratulated by Dennis, a potential future employer. "I love driving and I want to get into Formula One," he says in a clear bid for Coulthard's seat. "It's great fun. Better than school."

Absolutely: the uniform's cuter, the admiration deeper ... and David Coulthard says the pay is better. Stick at it Lewis; that McLaren car beckons.

Kart contenders get last-minute advice on the starting grid from team managers — mostly their dads

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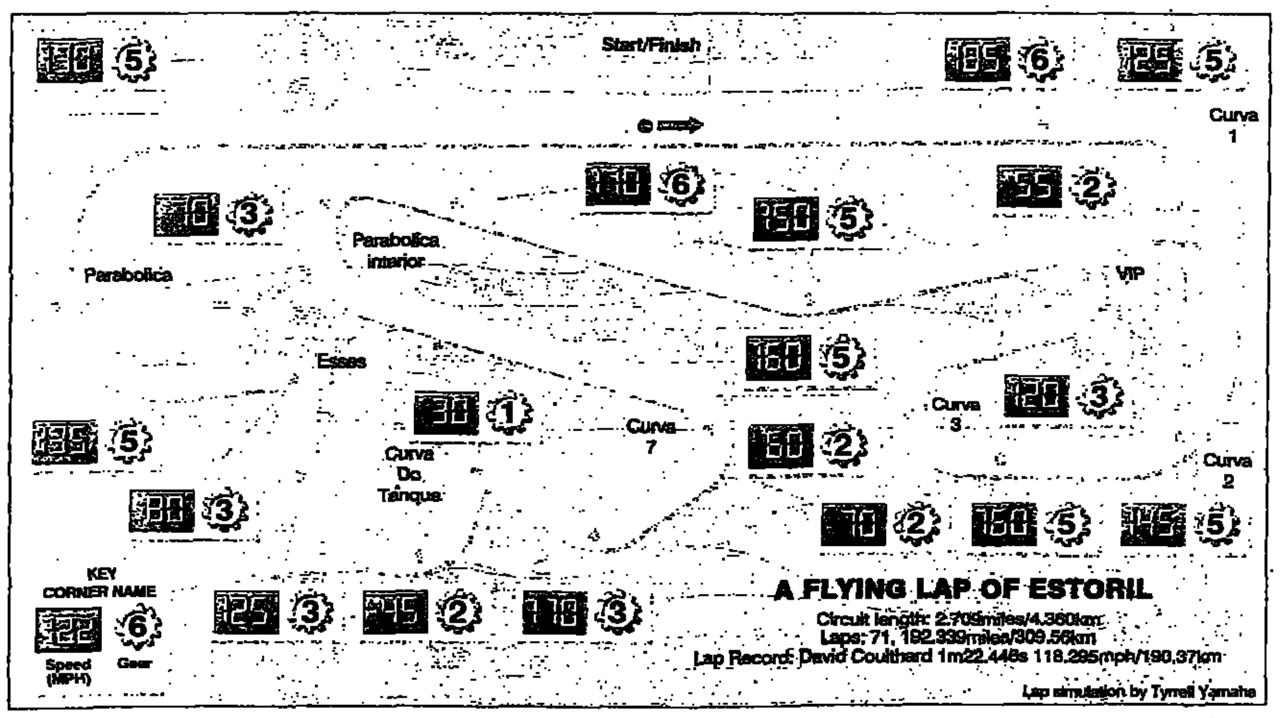
How heroic Hill could lose the title

The appointment of Heinz-Harald Frentzen to the coveted Williams drive has bewildered the casual grand prix viewer, for his is not a name that we have seen fighting for podium finishes this season. As Williams lines up for Monza, its confidence in Frentzen lies in reviewing his performances over the past few seasons taking into account the modest competitiveness of his Sauber car.

Last year in Portugal, Frentzen demonstrated the form that impressed Frank Williams by qualifying fifth and, after ultimately starting at the back of the field, storming through to finish sixth. He will be hoping to repeat this sensational form tomorrow to prove that Williams has made the right decision.

Meanwhile, Damon Hill will be hoping to prove otherwise in his efforts to leave as 1996 World Champion. It is not a time for heroics from Hill, however, for with a 13-point lead over Villeneuve, the championship should be his providing he finishes in the points in the next two races. With Williams reliability being pretty good his greatest risk is going off, as happened



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Lap Record: David Coulthard 1m22.446s 118.295mph/190.37km

Lap simulation by Tyrrell Yamaha

It is Williams's number-two driver Jacques Villeneuve who has everything to gain and nothing to lose providing Hill is still on the track. Last year David Coulthard took his maiden grand prix victory here as Damon's teammate, and given Williams's likely superiority on the fast-cornered track, Villeneuve must have a good chance of taking that win he needs, cruelly wrenching the championship from Hill's clutches.

With a hat-trick of victories in his sights, though, Michael Schumacher will try to take advantage of the fact that strategy is complicated here, perhaps compensating for his Ferarri being less competitive on this high tyre-wear Estoril circuit.

But it might be worth watch- successor, as Frentzen's car is nowhere near as competitive as the Williams. It is, however, still an astounding machine, as I discovered with a test drive at the new Austria circuit recently.

My six-year grand prix career ended in 1989, after which I spent a couple of years test-driving McLaren's Formula One cars, so it was five years ago that I last drove a contemporary Formula One car. At the time they were powered by 3.5-litre engines and most still had mechanical gear levers.

Instant impressions were of light steering and driving ease at modest speeds. Push the accelerator deeper and the torrent of wailing power from the 3-litre just goes on and on. I kept thinking that it must be orange, then red, dashboard light signals the need for a new gear. Performance is dominated by this amazing engine's appetite for revs. A road car engine peaks at about 6500rpm; my 1989 Tyrrell's at 11,000 rpm.

Keeping a modern grand prix car on the boil means holding the revs between 13,000 and 16,000rpm. And when you do, the performance is shattering: 0-150mph in about seven seconds, for example. After first, the remainder of the six gears are selected by pulling on the right hand flipper, and when you do so your foot stays hard on the accelerator. With a minimal jerk the next gear is instantly engaged.

The power of the brakes is engine. Time after time I would have to accelerate into the corner again, having braked too early and never did I get near the suicidally late, but correct, braking points.

At least you don't have to concentrate on beautifully synchronised heel and toe downchanges any more; each pull on the left-hand flipper changes down to the next gear, with a perfect rev of the engine, automatically.

With so much downforce the cars are phenomenally stable so you can weave around with gay abandon at 185mph. Of course cornering grip is immense, and with no roll and light steering, great skill, courage and familiarity are required to come near to finding the limits, and that certainly wasn't going to be achieved in

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- *Brian Martin of Leicester, won the te drive competition of September 7.*

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FANTASY DRIVE

The Italian Grand Prix has produced a new leader in the race for o
£10,000 jackpot. David Rokov from Bracknell, Berkshire, heads the table on 7,353 points after the performance of his team, Richie's Terrors, at Monza. Former leader Chris Dare drops to 16th position. Below are the top 16 positions after the 13 races in our competition. Remember, the Australian Grand Prix does not count in our game.

F1 FANTASY DRIVE LEADERBOARD AFTER 13 RACES

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04	7,268	The Simpletons	M Sim	04	7,268	Phoney	D Park
04	7,268	Scab Car	R Howells	13	7,262	KO16	D Rokov
04	7,268	The Great 8	M Neathan	13	7,262	Del Wall	K Walton
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that the main purpose of upwards, ever upwards. Smith. Susan Thomson. Jane Gregory and John McNamara

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CARMART: YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE FORECOURTS

Oh. for the pleasures of top-down *summer motoring* — *but not in the flimsy Escort*

ROADTEST

Shake, rattle and cabriolet

It's not often you get to road-test a car that reacts to every bump in the road as though it were tuning up for a symphony, *writes Kevin Eason*. As soon as the wheels of the Ford Escort Cabriolet hit even a minor divot, the body suffered a major reaction.

Rather like a tuning fork, the vibrations rippled through the chassis to shake out even the most recent fillings from the teeth of long-suffering occupants.

This summer, you may have looked up at the sunshine and down at the family hatchback and thought how nice it would be to have a soft-top. You might have considered buying the top-selling convertible in its category — and thought: "Hmmm. I know it's an Escort, but why not?"

Stop now, dear reader, before a terrible mistake is made. Do not buy a soft-top unless you have proper money to spend. The Escort Cabriolet might look pretty, but it is too seriously flawed to warrant all but the attentions of the most desperate poseur.

The Escort is a much-improved range, with attractive and comfortable interiors, excellent stereos and a ride-and-handling package which is much better than before. Except for the Escort Cabriolet.

Ford's engineering chaps have not solved the problem of what we alleged experts describe as "scuttle shake". In other words: take the roof off and the car loses its rigidity. The best manufacturers strengthen the chassis to prevent the car twisting and vibrating in a way which would normally be controlled by the roof and its supports.

The Escort has lots of scuttle shake, which leads to rattles around the car, while there is plenty of roll from the fairly squishy suspension. With all that shake, rattle and roll, even Bill Haley and his Comets would have to struggle to keep up.

The Escort Ghia I drove was pleasant enough and the equipment levels are high. But the poor quality of the drive and the underpowered engine meant frustration grew with each mile.

And this is not such a cheap car: the £17,000 asking price puts the Ghia version into *MGF* territory and not far away from convertibles with a far higher pedigree.

And it's only an Escort, after all. The Escort might be Britain's favourite Cabriolet but, quite honestly, if you are so desperate for top-down motoring, save your money and put it all on the national lottery. Then, if you're lucky, you can buy a Porsche, MGF or Mercedes which doesn't react to road surfaces like a tuning fork.

FORD ESCORT GHIA CABRIOLET

Engine: 1.8-litre, 16-valve engine (worth 85 kilowatts of power), using five-speed gearbox through front wheels.

Performance: 0 to 60mph in 10 seconds; top speed 120mph; fuel economy, 29.7 miles to the gallon around town, 47.9mpg at constant 56mph.

Equipment: driver's airbag, sports seats, alarm and immobiliser, leather-trimmed steering wheel, high-specification four-speaker stereo, electric mirrors and windows, electrically operated fabric roof. Extras include compact disc player and air-conditioning.

Insurance: group 15.

Price: £17,145.

FORECOURT

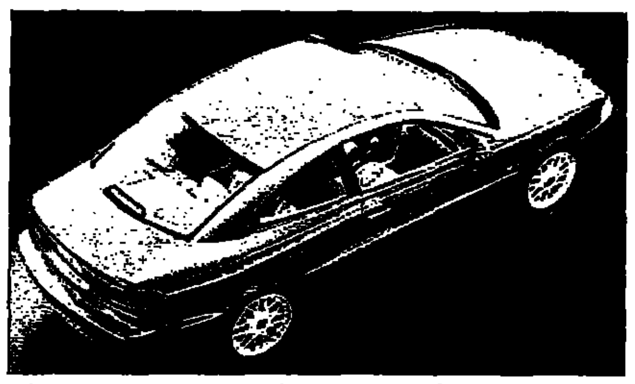
Volvo built for thrills

■ First sight of the new coupé from Volvo reveals a long, sleek shape of a type rarely associated with the traditional Swedish workhorses. These are new times for Volvo though, and the C70 is the next step on the path from boredom to excitement. Thought out in Britain by TWR — the company which belongs to Tom Walkinshaw, owner of the Arrows Formula One team — the new coupé is revealed for the first time at the Paris Motor Show early next month.

Volvo promises it will be both elegant and sporty, with a 240 brake horse power turbo-charged engine. Sales in the UK should start around the middle of next year, making a significant impact on Volvo's image, and the start of a series of "specials" based on the new 40 series, which will include a convertible.

Walkinshaw has been given the job of "brightening" Volvo's image with these new cars, but he as already started by doing a sterling job on the track with Volvo's team in the British Touring Cars Championships. The company started last season with two 850 estates as little more than a joke but the Swedes and Tom Walkinshaw have had the last laughs this year with a series of wins.

Now the carmaker is transferring Walkinshaw's sports expertise from track to road.


The new shape is long, sleek, and hardly Scandanavian

Germans in spy-hunt

Volkswagen has launched an investigation after finding a spy camera in the undergrowth alongside its test track at Wolfsburg in Germany. The camera was programmed automatically to take a picture each time one of the company's secret new models flashed by.

Car companies are used to the trauma of spy photographers with long lenses but this was a new threat and so upset Ferdinand Piech, VW's chairman, that he has hired a private detective to track down the culprits. Audi, VW's sister company, has already given up using the track because of security breaches.

So far, the usual suspects — news photographers — have pleaded not guilty, leading to worries that the camera was linked to industrial espionage. The camera could have snapped a series of sensitive pictures, including the next Golf, a new mini-car and the new Passat. An unidentified model was also pictured, it is believed.

VW has just lauched the Passat and remains Europe's biggest carmaker with sales improving, and Audi, a one-time millstone, enjoying a resurgence.

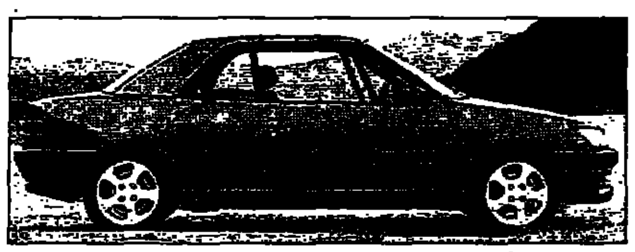
BEST SELLERS

■ CARMAKERS have put millions of pounds into promoting their new models, changing the traditional list of top-ten best sellers in Britain. Peugeot, with the 306, Renault with the Clio, and Fiat with the Punto, have nudged into the league tables alongside the Big Three of Ford, Rover and Vauxhall.

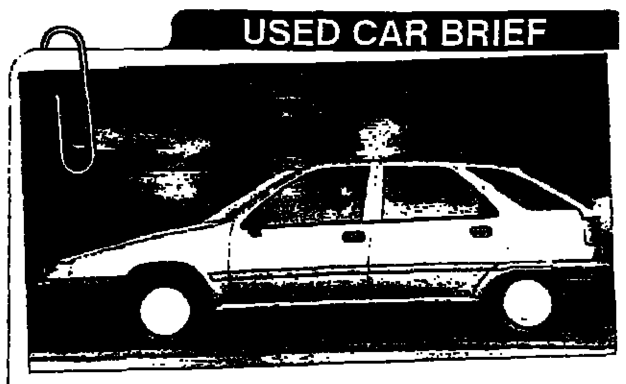
The top ten best sellers to August this year are: 1, Ford Fiesta: 2, Ford Escort; 3, Ford Mondeo; 4, Vauxhall Vectra; 5, Vauxhall Astra; 6, Vauxhall Corsa: 7, Rover 400; 8, Peugeot 306; 9, Renault Clio: 10, Fiat Punto.

Lion's successful pride

PEUGEOT has burst into the top ten best-selling cars list with the 306 by producing a series of new models. As well as the hatchback, there is the British-built Sedan version and now the Roadster, which provides a removable hard-top for the convertible. The car has a 2-litre engine, helping it to a top speed of 120mph. Equipment includes alloy wheels, alarm and immobiliser and twin airbags: price £19,995.


The new Peugeot 306 Roadster is capable of 120mph

USED CAR BRIEF



CITROËN ZX DIESEL
Old prejudices that condemned diesel cars as slow and lethargic were dented by Citroën with the introduction of the ZX range. The turbo-diesel version in particular produced performance usually associated with the smoothness and speed of petrol-driven hatchbacks. The ZX arrived in Britain in 1991 and the diesel alternatives were led by the normally aspirated 71 brake horse power 1.9-litre XUD engine. The turbo 1.9 diesel turned heads though, especially when coupled to an automatic transmission from 1992. Then the first diesel 'hot hatch', the ZX Volcane TD, arrived a year later. The ZX is available in three and five door hatches, plus an estate.

✓ **GOOD NEWS**
Highly rated for sophisticated performance, quiet-running and smooth power delivery. The 92bhp turbo-diesel is worth seeking out over the non-turbo 71bhp 1.9 normally aspirated diesel, as the turbo offers better performance with little if any penalty on fuel consumption.

BAD NEWS
Notoriously heavy to steer simply because their engines are that much heavier. Search out cars with power steering, which on early cars was only standard on the highly-equipped Aura model. Check the single windscreen wiper and all electrics including central locking and windows, and beware blown head gaskets.

LOOK FOR
Cars from 1994 benefit from driver side airbag as standard on all models, as well as seatbelt pre-tensioners and new front-end cosmetic treatment. Automatic transmissions are smooth but check service history.

AVOID
Base cars, such as Reflex specification, are hardly sumptuous offering only tinted glass and a rear wash-wipe. Electric sunroof, windows and remote central locking standard on Avantage.

△ **SAFETY RATING**
The ZX does well in the Department of Transport safety ratings, scoring above average for lower medium-sized cars, on a par with rivals such as the Volvo 300 and VW Golf and ahead of the Toyota Corolla and Peugeot 305.

INSURANCE
A 55-year old professional in Winchester with no claims bonus pays £152-a-year fully comp' on a 1992 ZX Avantage 1.9 turbo. A 22-year old male, one year no claims, in south London pays £890 a year, a similar female £721. (AA Insurance. 0800-444777)

PARTS
(Prices include VAT); clutch assembly £175; full exhaust £350; front damper £55; rear damper £40; front brakepads £50; alternator £250; starter motor £90; tyre £45.

£ **PRICES**
£4,250 for a 1992 K-reg ZX Reflex 1.9D three-door, £6,250 for a 1994 L-reg ZX Reflex 1.9D estate, £6,000 for a 1993 L-reg ZX Avantage 1.9D five-door, £7,600 for a 1994 L-reg ZX Aura 1.9 TD five-door and £7,650 for a 1993 L-reg ZX Volcane 1.9TD five-door.

OVERALL
With fuel consumption figures of between 40 and 60 miles to the gallon, the turbo-diesel makes a lot of sense. Though lacking Citroën's traditional wacky hydropneumatic suspension, there is passive rear-wheel steer, which, together with an engine that is surprisingly responsive, makes for a pleasant motoring package. Expect to pay more for turbo diesels, especially Volcane.

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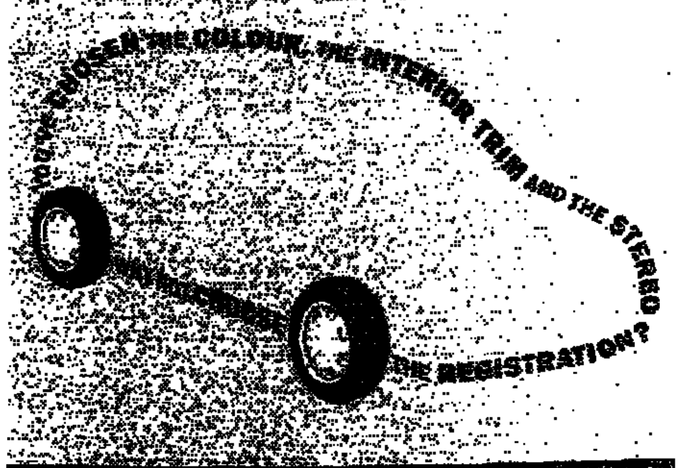
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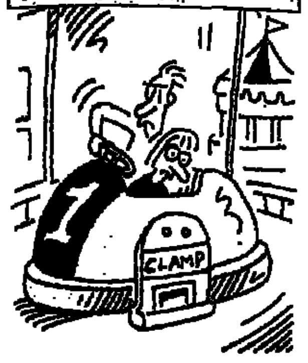

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meets a woman who has yet to put a price on the security of her luxury car

ADRIAN BROOKES

Melanie de Mariveles and her super-secure BMW: she can go to sleep at night knowing it will still be there in the morning

That BMW in the car park might look tempting to thieves — but breaking in would be like trying to find a way into Fort Knox. For Melanie de Mariveles has spent £6,000 turning her car into a *mobile fortress.*

When most of us lock our cars and walk away, we often wonder whether it will still be parked in the same spot when we return, even though it might be loaded with the latest anti-theft gadgets. Melanie, aged 33 and the owner of a car hi-fi firm in Virginia Water, Surrey, decided that the standard security package — which includes central deadlocking and alarm — on her £19,800 BMW 320i just wasn't enough.

She says: "I've had a lot of hi-fi kit fitted in the car and I needed something that would ensure no-one would run off with it. There's nothing worse than having someone mess with your belongings. But everyone takes car security very seriously these days."

Attempt to break any of the windows on Melanie's BMW and the glass might shatter, but it won't cave in. A transparent film of laminated polyester known as Secur-Fix has been applied to the inside of each window, holding the broken glass in place. It keeps thieves out and will prevent injury from glass splinters in a collision.

Even if thieves did manage to break in and drive off her BMW, they will not get far: a mile in fact, for that is when the engine will cut out, lights will flash and an alarm will blast. The system is called "Blackjack", the latest antidote to carjacking, which doesn't immobilise the car until the thief is a safe distance away from the victim to prevent the frustration of failing to get away turning into attack.

Not that thieves should get that close anyway, for Melanie's BMW talks. Something described as a "digital dual-zone proximity sensor" knows when someone nasty is near and tells them to "move away". If they don't, the system activates a loud blast from the alarm. Should Melanie ever forget to shut the windows or sunroof, the job will be done for her by the on-board computer.

Although car crime figures have fallen by 4 per cent for the third consecutive year, according to Home Office statistics, Melanie is well aware that car crime remains the largest category of all crime in the UK. Cars are stolen or broken into at a rate of one every 24 seconds — a total of 1.3 million recorded offences last year.

Having been a victim of a ram-raid at her shop, where thieves got away with £20,000 worth of stock, she has learnt the hard way.

"I know all the weak points a car thief can spot and I make sure I don't give them a single opportunity," she says. Melanie has a ritual for locking up her car before she leaves it, removing the stereo, hiding valuables and locking belongings in the boot.

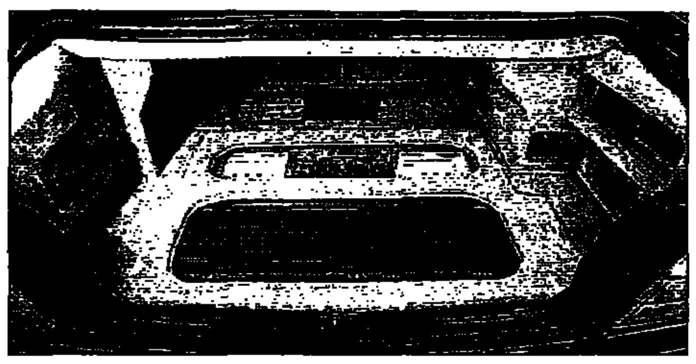
"It's not just about keeping the BMW secure, though," she adds. "There are several features designed to look after me as well."

If she returns to her car late at night, a button on the keyfob will switch on her headlights, helping her locate it quickly and light her way. If she feels threatened, another button will unlock the doors, sound the siren and flash the indicators. Once safely inside, the doors will lock automatically when she starts the engine.

Some people may call her paranoid but Melanie adds: "It might be an awful lot of money to spend on car security, but at least I sleep easily at night. I know people who have their evenings ruined just worrying whether their car is safe."

But the ultimate device is yet to be fitted to her car — an automatic engine starter.

Melanie is also looking to use the system on cold winter mornings. "I'll be able to lean out of the window, start the engine but keep it locked and alarmed, so that when I leave for work the car will be nice and warm and the windows defrosted."



The keyfob (left) activates the system housed in the boot (above)

DR DASHBOARD

Can I beat the thieves without busting myself?

Q It was the worst moment, doctor. I dived out of bed to hear the car disappearing into the night. Yet I had an alarm fitted only two months ago. What more could I do to protect my next car from disappearing?

A Take it to bed with you? Perhaps not. I know what you mean. Even though the figures show car theft is diminishing, large numbers of owners still suffer the ignominy and financial pain of theft or break-ins.

Q Sympathy is no good. What am I to do? This is not a fancy modern car, you know, with all the bits and bobs on, and I am on a budget. I can't go out spending hundreds of pounds on security equipment.

A You and millions like you. The thing is to determine how vulnerable you are. Thieves increasingly like picking old cars because they are easy to break into. So if you have a second-hand motor, try to make your deterrents as obvious as possible.

Q Like putting a sign on the bonnet saying: "Don't steal me or else"? Get a grip, doctor: give me some proper advice.

A Ooh, your blood pressure is on the way up. Calm down. Look, think about investing in something visible, such as a steering or handbrake lock. And an immobiliser will at least guarantee that the car is not going to move, even if it is broken into.

Q But how do I know that the equipment is any good? There is so much of this gear on sale now in the spares shops.

A Ask your insurance company; they should have a list of approved equipment from the Association of British Insurers — equipment which has been tried and tested by the industry. If your insurers don't have that list, ask why not, because they are missing something — including premiums discounts for fitting the best deterrents.

Q So it means spending money again, does it? That's all you doctors think about, spending money. I don't suppose there's a simpler way of beating crime.

A Could be. Such as these tips: always park where there is light and there are people passing, never in dark corners. Never leave valuables — briefcases, telephones — on seats where they are tempting targets. Make sure the car is locked all round if you have no central-locking system and never leave the keys in the vehicle, not even when you stop for petrol. That is just an invitation for trouble. And always drive with the doors locked. Apart from that little lot, enjoy your happy motoring.

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1996 SILVER SPUR, Royal Blue/Magnolia ......1,500 miles
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93K GOLF GL, Auto, Red, 33,000 miles, PAS, Electric Windows/Sunroof, ABS, CDL
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93L CORRADO VR6, Aqua Blue, 33,000 miles, Alloys, PAS, ABS, CDL, Electric Sunroof & Windows
Dovercourt

Peregrine Cleveland-Peck discovers why the woman featured in Rover's new campaign loves her Saab

The model advert for driving

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Shannon Murray with her specially adapted Saab: "I wanted a car that looked sleek, stylish and sporty, and was powerful and safe"

STEERING COLUMN

In spite of being confined to a wheelchair, top model Shannon Murray loves driving. Shannon was on course for a big career five years ago when she broke her neck in a diving accident. But she has refused to allow that to prevent her rise to the top of the modelling industry, so much so that she was selected to feature in the advertisements for the new Rover Metro Kensington. Shannon, who is 20, has now decided on a career change and is taking the first year of a law degree. Eventually she wants to use her knowledge of the law to work in the film industry.

How did you first learn to drive?

I was 16 (when you are registered disabled you can take your test a year beforehand — it is one of the few advantages). I was amazed at how relaxed I felt behind the wheel. I think it must be something to do with the sense of freedom and equality that a disabled person can find when driving: that was probably why I passed first time.

What was your first car?

A new black Volkswagen Golf GL, which I got in January 1992. I adored it. When I bought a new car recently, saying goodbye to my Golf was like witnessing the end of an era — my teenage years.

What car do you drive now and why?

A Saab 900S. When I was choosing my new car I wanted it to look sleek, stylish and quite sporty. I also wanted it to be powerful but safe — particularly as I have to use the motorway a lot to drive to photo shoots. It also happens to be one of the few cars that can fit an entire wheelchair into the boot. I have had had some modifications done; to the right of the steering wheel there is a lever which acts as an accelerator and brake. I also have a knob on the steering wheel which allows me to steer with one hand.

Do you enjoy driving?

Most definitely yes. I love it. It provides me with me complete independence and a sense of freedom. If I am ever feeling bored or low I just get in the car, turn on the CD player and drive.

What is your dream car?

An Aston Martin DB7 convertible with a leather interior.

What is your most hated car?

Minicabs — especially the ones you sit in wondering if they are actually roadworthy.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Flirting.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

Apart from Sunday drivers, young men who attempt to personalise their cars. You know the ones: black windows, alloy wheels, stickers and ultraviolet lighting under the car's body — yuck.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

Well it was not in my car, but in a car I was modelling for recently, the new Rover Metro. I had to sit in the front seat with the windows open (in the middle of freezing December), smiling. I was told not to breathe to prevent the steam coming out of my mouth. I then had to drive around with a TV crew in the car while glancing at the camera, talking to the interviewer and ensuring that the cameraman did not fall out of the back window.

Have you ever had any points on your licence?

No.

What do you listen to on your stereo while driving?

On a Saturday afternoon I listen to the football on Capital Gold; the rest of the time it depends on my mood, my journey and the company I have in the car. It varies from Chopin to Ella Fitzgerald to a Ministry of Sound compact disc.

If you were the Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Two things: I would pass a parliamentary Bill to ensure that all public transport was made wheelchair-accessible, and create a separate disabled orange-badge scheme with parking advantages just for the wheelchair-bound.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

The Peugeot advertisment where a woman, who we later find out to be the male character's wife, meets him in an underground car park and exclaims: "Nice car . . . want to show me what it can do?"

Help for poor cars stuck out on the drive

Dawn of the incredible expanding garages

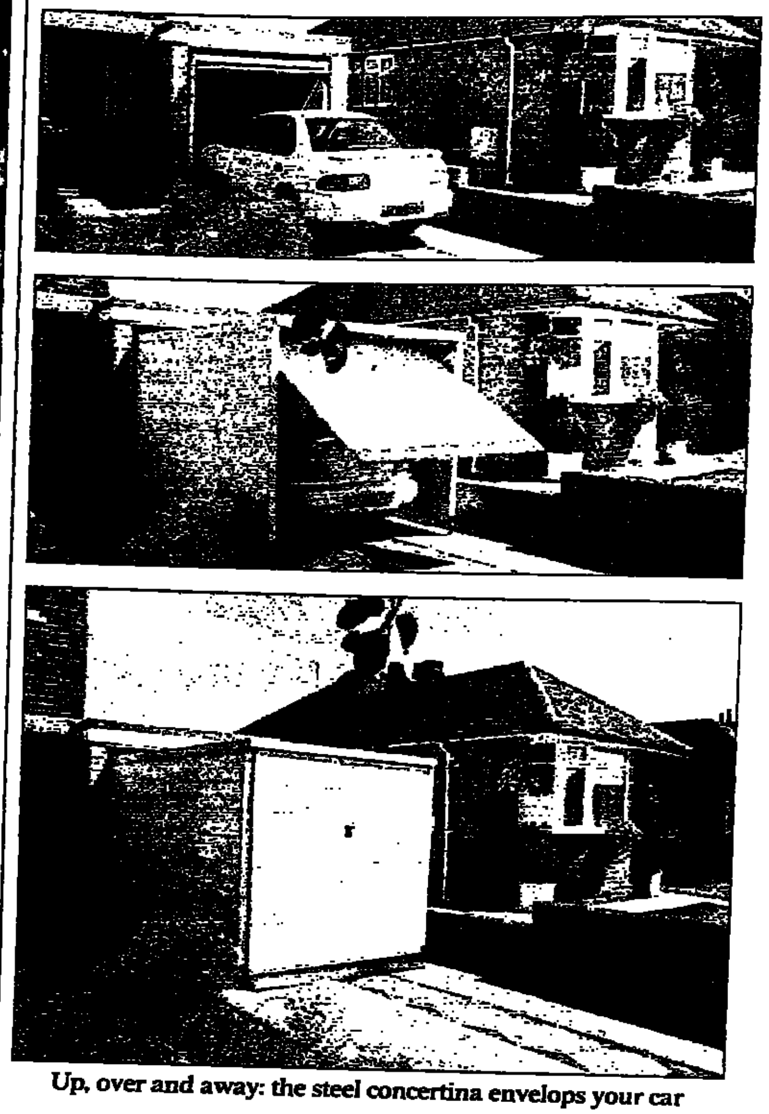
Every motorist proud of their new car dreads approaching their garage and finding it is not going to fit into the hole provided, *writes Simon Hacker*. And sometimes lawn mowers and assorted junk take up so much room that the car becomes a second thought, left to stand unattended on the drive, open to the weather and a target for thieves.

However, help is at hand. Richard Bladek of Senator Designs has come up with the incredible growing garage.

The Senator Unit is a series of steel sheets, which concertina when not needed and are hidden inside an ordinary brick garage. You just have to park and blip the remote: the garage does the rest. The up-and-over door opens, and the steel sheets extend to enclose the car. When the car is fully covered, the garage door drops down behind it.

A part-time garage stretching half-way down your drive may not please the neighbours, although Senator is working on a set of acceptable colours. Bladek says: "In most cases the unit needs no approval because it requires no building work and isn't fixed to the ground."

Senator Designs, PO Box 253, Gloucester GL3 3YF.
Telephone: 01452 371493.


Up, over and away: the steel concertina envelops your car

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

THE TIMES

FIVE CLASSIC CARS TO BE WON

Plus every entrant will receive an exclusive limited-edition Classic Sports Car First Day Cover FREE

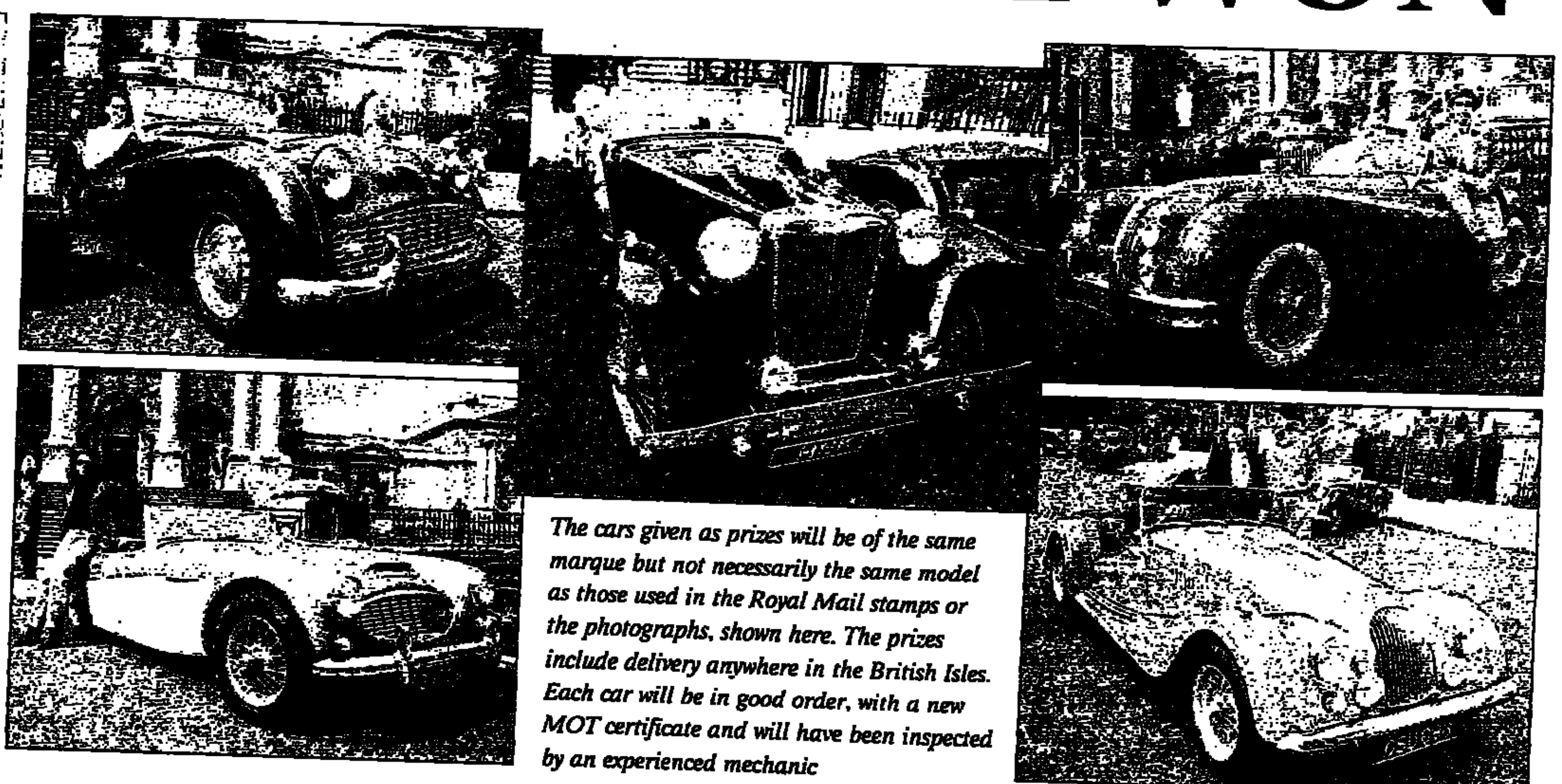
HOW TO ENTER

The Times, in association with *The Sunday Times* and the Royal Mail, is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the British motor industry by giving readers the chance to win one of the following five cars:

- **Triumph TR3A, 1960**
- **MG TC, 1949**
- **Morgan Plus Four**
- **Austin Healey 100/4, 1954**
- **Jaguar XK 120, 1948**

PLUS, every reader of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* entering our competition can receive an exclusive, limited-edition First Day Cover, with details of five classic marques of postwar sports cars, free of charge.

- If you are a *Times* reader you can enter by sending the completed form, below, with seven differently-numbered tokens from *The Times* together with one of the tokens published in *The Sunday Times*. Readers of *The Sunday Times* can enter by sending the two *Sunday Times* tokens together with three differently-numbered tokens from *The Times*.

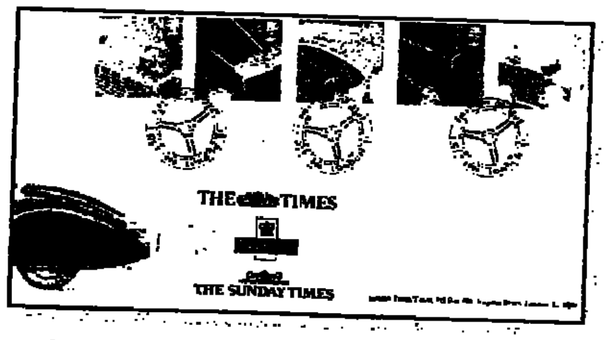

The cars given as prizes will be of the same marque but not necessarily the same model as those used in the Royal Mail stamps or the photographs, shown here. The prizes include delivery anywhere in the British Isles. Each car will be in good order, with a new MOT certificate and will have been inspected by an experienced mechanic

FREE limited-edition first day covers

The first day cover, pictured right, has been produced by the Royal Mail exclusively for Times Newspapers. It features five stamps which will be launched on Tuesday, October 1, ranging in denominations from 20p to 63p.

Royal Mail decided to mark British motoring's celebration of two centenaries this year with a set of five special stamps. The first event of 100 years ago was the Locomotives on Highways Act 1896 which allowed the Local Government Board to raise the speed limit for cars from 4mph to 12mph. The British motor industry also began in 1896 with the registration of Daimler to manufacture British-built cars in Coventry.

- *Presentation packs, first day covers, postcards, and the Classic Sports Car stamps are available by post from the British Philatelic Bureau: call 0345 641 641 (Monday to Friday); and most Post Offices — for more details call 0345 22 33 44. First day covers are also available from BPCPA: 0181 886 6744*



THE TIMES
CLASSIC SPORTS CAR

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THE TIMES/THE SUNDAY TIMES CLASSIC CAR COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

For your chance to win a classic sports car complete this coupon and post it with either: two tokens from *The Sunday Times* and three from *The Times*; or one from *The Sunday Times* and seven from *The Times*, to: **Classic Sports Car Competition, Times Newspapers/Royal Mail, PO Box 69, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 7ZD**, to arrive by September 28, 1996. Tokens will appear each day in *The Times* until September 21. Tokens in The Sunday Times appear on September 8 and 15.

What was the speed limit for a light locomotive raised to in 1896?
Tick answer a) ☐ 10mph b) ☐ 12mph c) ☐ 15mph

If I win the competition, the car I wish to own is (tick one box only):
☐ Triumph TR3A, 1960; ☐ MG TC, 1949;
☐ Austin Healey 100/4, 1954; ☐ Jaguar XK120, 1948;
☐ Morgan Plus Four. I have made this choice because:

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2767 DG
DGN 13
1957 DE
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DJE 353
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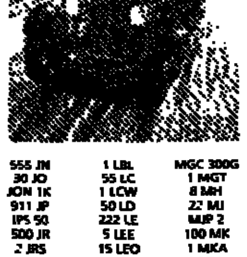

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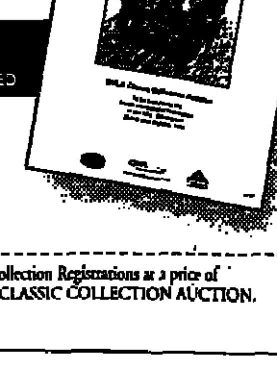

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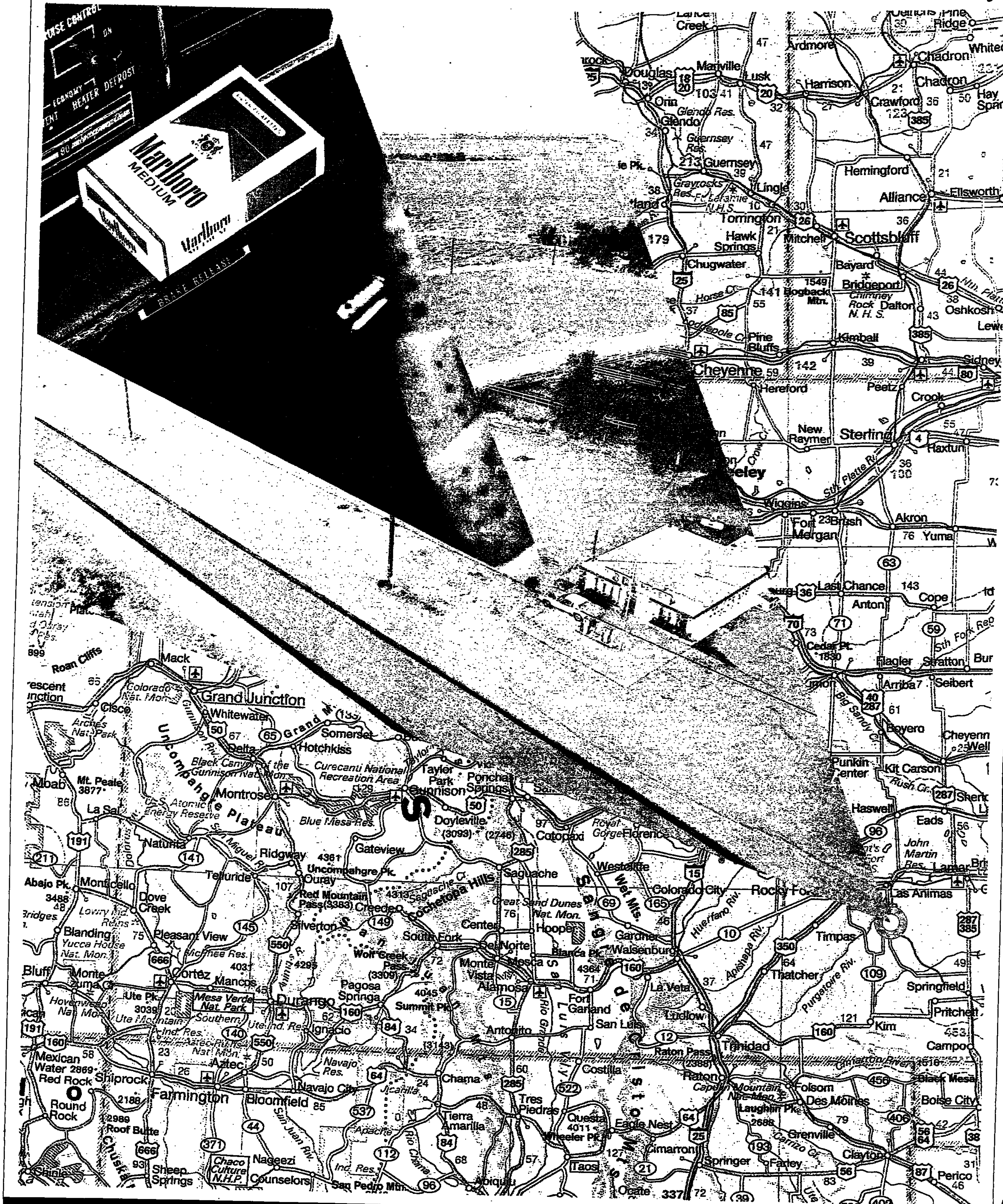

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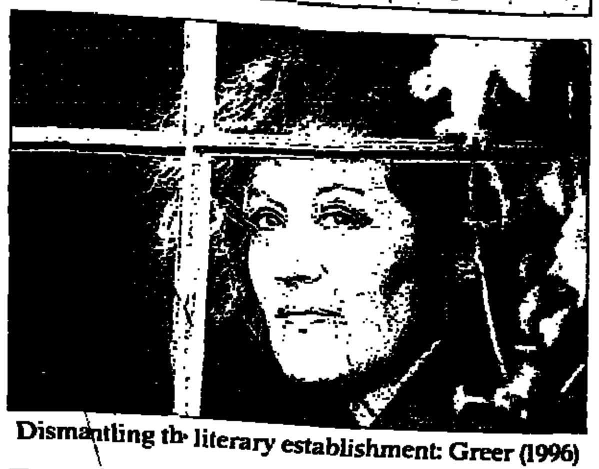


Dismantling the literary establishment: Greer (1996)

■ *SLIP-SHOD SYBILS*
By Germaine Greer.
Penguin, £6.99
ISBN 0 14 07771 X

THIS is Germaine Greer under full sail and all her guns are blazing. Some shots are deadly, others wild. The sight remains magnificent. She advances four theses. The first, that men have subjugated women poets, is hardly new, but her diligence yields grim evidence. She gives us Charles Darwin plagiarising Anne Seward, or Letitia Landon, whom "Mr Murray said ps only should write poetry"

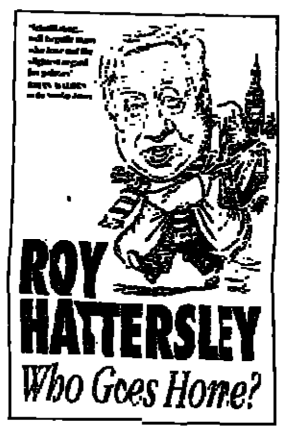
She throws up some invigorating spray — Sinhn St John of Lydiard Treze, the poetess Delarivier Manley "ruined by a bigamous marriage when still a child", or Buckingham dying "dissipation and disappointment".

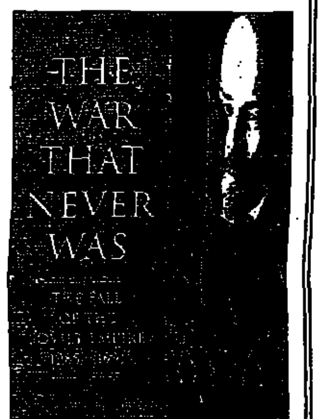
Other spray is saltier. Sappho, we read, could have been "the Lesbian Women's Poetry Co-operative." But Greer piles Pelion on Ossa, suggesting that when Sappho says sweat is a sign of love, she has been mistranslated (by men) and means not "sweat" but vaginal juices.

Her second argument is that women poets have been, by their saccharine servility, their own enemies. She gives us Rochester's niece, a poet "who seduced and was seduced by" him. But she cloaks her inability to answer why this should be so with such mumbo-jumbo as "the very use of the term female poet ... suggests a willed androgyny". She suggests that the answer won't come before the "death of print and dismantling of the literary establishment". That might mean never, but Greer has fired some mighty cannons on the way.

■ THE OXFORD BOOK OF LETTERS
Edited by Frank Kermode and Anita Kermode
Oxford University Press, £11.99 ISBN 0 19 282522 4

A BOOK to satisfy the most ardent epistolary voyeur. Over 300 letters spanning 500 years, from Thomas Moore's final correspondence to his daughter, to Philip Larkin's somewhat acrimonious letter to Kingsley Amis, 11 days before Larkin died. Fanny Burney describes in gruesome detail her mastectomy without anaesthetic: "... the terrible cutting was renewed ... the Knife [rack]ling against the breast bone". Aldous Huxley relates to Dora Carrington how, between him and a friend, a Dutch girl's "virginity hangs in the balance".





■ WHO GOES HOME?
By Roy Hattersley
Warner Books, £6.99
ISBN 0 7515 1751 8

ROY HATTERSLEY, the scion of an old Labour family, has been a party activist since he was 11. After his election in 1964 as Member for Sparkbrook, he served in Wilson's Governments and Callaghan's Cabinet, ending up as Deputy Leader. If you're looking for an even-handed political memoir, this isn't it. It's a cheerily biased and very funny account of 30 years at the centre of government by an immensely talented journalist and raconteur wholly convinced of the rightness of his socialist convictions. As such it should not be missed.

■ THE WAR THAT NEVER WAS
By David Pryce-Jones
Phoenix, £12.99
ISBN 1 85799 475 2

THIS compelling book describes the dissolution of the Soviet Union between 1985-91. Pryce-Jones travelled in Eastern Europe, talking to people who experienced it, from dissidents to party members. A picture of a society which rewarded only "human nature's most repugnant qualities", as Zinoviev put it, emerges. The *confusion of its collapse* makes such depressing reading that one is oddly cheered by the vision of Mrs Thatcher letting fly at the astonished Soviet generals on her visit in 1987.

Contributors: Ross Leckie, Perry Cleveland-Peck, Fiona Hook, Hazel Leslie

Jane Austen's heroine did not live happily ever after, as **Gill Hornby** learns in two sequels

Emma meets her match

Jane's ladies: (from left) Kate Beckinsale as Emma, Olivia Williams as Jane Fairfax and Samantha Morton as Harriet Smith in ITV's television adaptation of *Emma*

THERE has been an explosion of popularity in all parts of the media for the works of Jane Austen recently. And now, it seems, it may even extend to books. There are new editions of David Cecil's excellent *A Portrait of Jane Austen*, as well as *My Dear Cassandra*, the delightful collection of letters from Austen to her sister. And, while the nation settles down to watch *Emma* adapted for screens both large and small, two sequels to the novel are being published, simultaneously.

Austen left her heroine marrying Mr Knightley in a simple ceremony, with their friends rejoicing in the "perfect happiness of their union". Rachel Billington takes up her story after about 18 months, Emma Tennant leaves it for four years. But, for both, the inevitable results of "perfect" nuptial "happiness" is deep, marital boredom.

In *Perfect Happiness*, as in *Emma in Love*, Mr and Mrs Knightley are still childless. In both cases, it seems, because poor Knightley's deep passion has failed to find a release. Billington is the only one who takes her characters beyond the bedroom door, where she does find a "tenderness", but a lack of openness leads to misunderstandings about their friendships with Harriet Smith and Mr Churchill.

Tennant does not go beyond the Knightley's bedroom door, but, instead, finds an outlet with the arrival in Highbury of "two beautiful strangers". When Frank Churchill arrives with his dashing new brother-in-law, Captain Brocklehurst, she is up to her old match-making tricks again. And when an exotic French baroness comes to stay with the Eltons, she is bewitched.

In general, it is Tennant's Emma who has most in common with the original:

■ PERFECT HAPPINESS
By Rachel Billington
Sceptre, £14.99
ISBN 0 340 67512 8

■ EMMA IN LOVE
By Emma Tennant
Fourth Estate, £12.99
ISBN 1 85702 527 X

■ A PORTRAIT OF JANE AUSTEN
By David Cecil
Penguin, £12.50
ISBN 0 14 005411 1

■ MY DEAR CASSANDRA
By Jane Austen
Collins & Brown, £8.99
ISBN 1 85585 004 4

fiercely snobby, meddling madly, in combat with her husband and "marooned on an island of self-regard". Billington's heroine is a much milder character: still a snob, but generally redeemed of her other faults by marriage and by the shame of her brother-in-law's bankruptcy.

Both novelists have allowed themselves two new characters apiece but, otherwise, concentrate on the cast which Austen created. Both stories culminate in a typical set piece — one a ball, one a dinner-party — and both, like the original, take place over less than a year. But each has a very different flavour.

But what is the point of these literary games of consequences — mimicry or subjectivity? These are certainly two attempts at the former — "It is a well-attested truth ..." (Billington); "It is often to be observed ..." (Tennant) — but neither is satisfactory. Billington's pen is just not sharp enough; and though Tennant has the Austen voice and comic touch, she strays too far from the content.

Transvestism, lesbianism, and Miss Bates's exclaiming "Bollocks!" in polite society — it is really too unlike the home life of our own dear Miss Woodhouse.

Breaking cover

IF *Sense and Sensibility* were in one edition instead of five (three from Penguin, one each from Bloomsbury and Wordsworth), its average weekly sale of 850 would exceed that of most bestsellers, including Stephen King's *Desperation*.

JANE AUSTEN'S SALES

Copies sold in all editions in the 12 weeks to September 7

1	SENSE AND SENSIBILITY	10,202
2	PRIDE AND PREJUDICE	6,893
3	EMMA	6,351
4	PERSUASION	3,910
5	MANSFIELD PARK	3,362
6	NORTHANGER ABBEY	2,938

Source: Whitaker BookTrack

Can you keep a state secret?

■ UK EYES ALPHA: The Inside Story of British Intelligence
By Mark Urban
Faber & Faber, £16.99
ISBN 0 571 17689 5

BRITAIN'S intelligence chiefs have a clever ploy for keeping secrets from the Americans. They pretend the weekly meeting with the CIA boss in London is over and then hold a separate session between themselves to focus on secret material stamped "UK Eyes Alpha".

The chances are, however, that the CIA man leaves behind a bug in the flower pot and misses nothing. Even the best of friends in the intelligence community spy on each other, although Mark Urban provides evidence that Britain does not spy on the United States. He quotes a "senior MI6 officer" as saying: "We do not spy on America because the JIC (Joint Intelligence Committee) does not set us that task."

A book that claims to be the inside story of British intelligence has a more authorised ring to it these days because Britain's three agencies — MI6, MI5, and, to a lesser extent, GCHQ, the Government's secret eavesdropping centre in Cheltenham — have come out of the shadows. Previously faceless and nameless intelligence chiefs have been named officially in Parliament, their budgets and *raison d'être* are under greater scrutiny than ever before, and on one notable occasion for selected journalists, the heads of MI6 and GCHQ appeared at a Foreign Office press conference — "but no pictures please" — to talk about the Intelligence Services Bill (now Act).

Urban has succeeded not only in providing a comprehensive insight into the changes that have affected all the intelligence services in the past five years but has also enlivened his book with some quixotic anecdotes.

MICHAEL EVANS

The last bubbles of youth

LIFE is a bottle of champagne in a fridge which has nothing else left in it except a dried up heel of cheese. For a lonely man sitting in an empty flat reviewing his life, it is as good a metaphor as any — of pleasure spent, opportunities seized and lost, of expectations and disappointments, but also of optimism. "You can't," as the hero of William McIlvanney's new novel observes, "put the cork back on champagne". But you can enjoy the bubbles while they last.

The Kiln is a *tour de force*, a wry and witty novel, shot through with deep reflections on how, in a materialistic world, we come to terms with ourselves, with society, and with those we love and hurt. This is a wiser more mature McIlvanney than we have been used to, still demonstrably a Scottish writer, but here ranging far wider, not just geographically, but intellectually, moving with unpretentious ease from thoughts on

■ THE KILN
By William McIlvanney
Sceptre, £15.99
ISBN 0 340 65735 9

Livy to skim-reading Nietzsche and grappling with Brecht. His descriptions of sex — experimental, failed, farcical or intense, are a delight.

The novel is part-nostalgic — the reflections of a middle-aged man on one summer in his youth, when he worked in a kiln, hesitated about earning a wage or going to university, and began to discover himself through his friends, his family, and above all through other women. But there is nothing self-indulgent about it. The theme it explores is whether the individual can fulfil his potential only by selfish pursuit of his own ends (the selfish gene?) and whether, thereby, he damages others and, ultimately, himself.

The dilemma is never entirely resolved, and along the way there are human casualties. But opportunity is never entirely closed off. There is always the champagne in the fridge.

This is a finely judged and beautifully written novel. McIlvanney's most mature and rounded work so far.

MAGNUS LINKLATER

Cracked — the E in Morse

John Thaw as E. Morse

THIS, we are told, is the last novel to be graced by Chief Inspector Morse. To mark the occasion, the next-to-last word in the book is Morse's hitherto unrevealed first name (E . . .), unknown even to the ever-patient, still unpromoted Sergeant Lewis (though why he has not looked it up in the police files or the electoral roll remains a mystery).

The point about Morse — more than any other character in crime fiction, including Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot, with only Perry Mason coming near — is that it has become impossible not to think of him in terms of his television personality. Many millions of people who have never read Colin Dexter have seen John Thaw; and of those who have read the books, almost all have also watched the telly. Expectation from the novels cannot be divorced from the televisual images they create.

You do not read Morse books for deep characterisation or incisive psychological insight. What you demand — and always get — is the certainty and security of sameness, plus a decent old-fashioned puzzle. Morse/Thaw, Lewis/Whatley and the City of Oxford must remain more or less unchanged: within that framework, it almost does not matter what the story is.

In *Death Is Now My Neighbour*, Dexter delivers what is required with his customary endearingly quirky cleverness. Morse's final bow finds him in particularly grumpy mood, diagnosed as a diabetic and compelled to change his beloved drinking habits. The

■ DEATH IS NOW MY NEIGHBOUR
By Colin Dexter,
Macmillan, £15.99
ISBN 0 333 67570 3

rating illicit sex, blackmail, pornography, secret pasts and, crucially, the murky politics of an Oxford college. The first victim — perhaps shot mistakenly — is the young mistress of one of the candidates for the post of Master of Lonsdale; her neighbour, a renowned local journalist, and a woman Tory party activist a few doors down behave strangely. The stumbling police inquiries run parallel to the Mastership elections, each bouncing off the other. The solution is not entirely surprising, but that is slightly beside the point.

What is important is that Morse continues to be his tetchy, untidy, music and beer-loving self, dispersing his intellectual and literary superiority to all within earshot, mainly Lewis, and still slightly pining for his lost love though open to alternative offers. Perhaps, this being his final fling, Dexter plays with his readers a little more self-indulgently than is usual, but who can blame him ? He has created a giant among fictional detectives and has never short-changed his readers.

History's lessons are no joke

CERTAIN historical figures generate such evil that it is hard to imagine the world as it might have been if they had never been born. What if Hitler's father had been sterile? How might the shape of history have changed? Stephen Fry's new novel, *Making History*, asks whether the Holocaust could have happened if Hitler had not come to lead Nazi Germany.

Making History is narrated by a young historian completing a thesis on Adolf Hitler's family and childhood for his PhD at Cambridge. Michael Young is a self-deprecating charmer, nicknamed "Puppy", but he is very much more skilled in getting what he wants than he appears to be. He gets himself mothered by his scientist girlfriend Jane, a strict parent who puts up with Michael's jokey emotional ineptitude.

He believes he knows all about cause and effect, until his certainties are shaken by contact with Dr Leo Zuckermann, who has built a primitive computerised time-machine which maps the past by means of a technique which Zuckermann calls "temporal imaging". Zuckermann shows Michael a screen covered in swirling coloured patterns, and then tells him that this is a temporal image of Auschwitz on October 9, 1942. One of the moving shapes is Zuckermann's own father. The roots of Zuckermann's obsession with altering the course of history begin to show.

Fry's plot, complex as it is, moves forward with considerable brio. He mocks the mildly unbearable behaviour of Cambridge students, with

■ MAKING HISTORY
By Stephen Fry
Hutchinson, £15.99
ISBN 0 09 179141 3

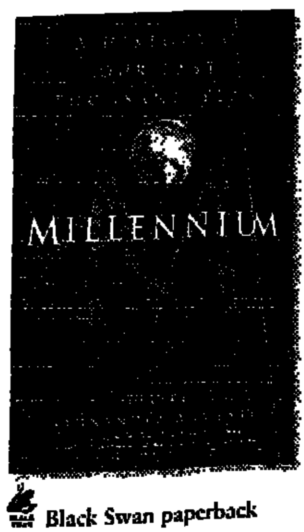
looks and money and books and money and money". Fry is relaxed and funny when writing of this milieu, and of Michael's hopeless struggle to become an academic with street cred. It is when the fiction moves into darker territory that he loses his touch. There is a growing, uneasy disparity between subject matter and style as the novel progresses.

The argument of this novel is that even if history can be altered, the alternative history that is created may be nearly as malign as the original. The malignity may be a new and unexpected one. Wiping away Hitler is no guarantee that innocence will be restored, or even that Germany will never succumb to Nazism.

At this point the light, engaging style of *Making History* begins to tell against it. The comic appeal of Michael Young becomes increasingly out of scale with his power to intervene in the lives of millions, and the terrible weight of what actually occurred during the Holocaust tears a whole through Fry's fictional canvas.

HELEN DUNMORE

NIGHT AT THE OPERA? VISITING A GALLERY? GOING OUT



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HISTORY TODAY

GOING OUT

CHILDREN

■ **LONDON**
Chinese Autumn Festival
Families are invited to celebrate the autumn harvest in this moon-worshipping festival. Featuring talks and demonstrations, music and drama and practical workshops.
Victoria and Albert Museum,
Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938 8638). Starts today, tomorrow, times vary; phone for details.

No 7 Dandelion Street
The story of Major Mustard and the wacky residents living in the terraced cottage. For three to seven-year-olds.
Little Angel Marionette Theatre,
Dagmar Passage, Cross Street, N1 (0171-226 1787). Today, tomorrow, 11am; £5, concs £4.50.

Ian Saville's Magic Show
A magic concoction of ventriloquism and illusion. For ages four and over.
Lyric Hammersmith,
King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311). Today, 11am and 1pm; £3.50.

Magic Lantern Slides
Series of creative workshops for three-year-olds and above.
Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood,
Cambridge Heath Road, E2 (0181-983 5200). Today, 11am-12.45pm and 2-3.45pm; free.

London: children can brush up on their drawing skills at this weekend's Chinese Autumn Festival

■ **REGIONAL**

BALLYMONEY, Co Antrim
Teddy Exhibition
The last day to uncover the history of the lovable bear.
Heritage Centre,
Charlotte Street (012656 62280). Today, 10am-12.30pm and 2-4pm; free.

CLIFDEN, Co Galway
Clifden Community Arts Week
Featuring poetry, songs and storytelling.
Various Venues,
(00 353 95 21162). Today, tomorrow, phone for details; mostly free.

ELVASTON, Derbyshire
Doll Fair
Toys galore in this fair with collectors, artists and craftspeople supplying the merchandise.
Elvaston Castle,
(01480 216372). Tomorrow, 10.30am-4.30pm; £2.20, concs £1.10, child free.

KNOCKCROGHERY, Co Roscommon
Knockcroghery Fair and Festival
Mixed bag of events for children, including puppet show, football and sheep fair.
Various venues,
(00 353 903 61110). Today, tomorrow, times vary.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
Science Factory
Educational science centre with games for children.
Discovery Museum,
Blandford Square (0191-232 6789). Today, 10am-5pm; free.

TENTERDEN, Kent
Friends of Thomas the Tank Engine
Meet the Fat Controller and Mrs Kyndley and take a ride behind "Duck" or a "Really Useful Steam Engines".
Kent and East Sussex Railway,
(01580 765155). Today, tomorrow, phone for details; £7.50-£9, child £4-£5.50.

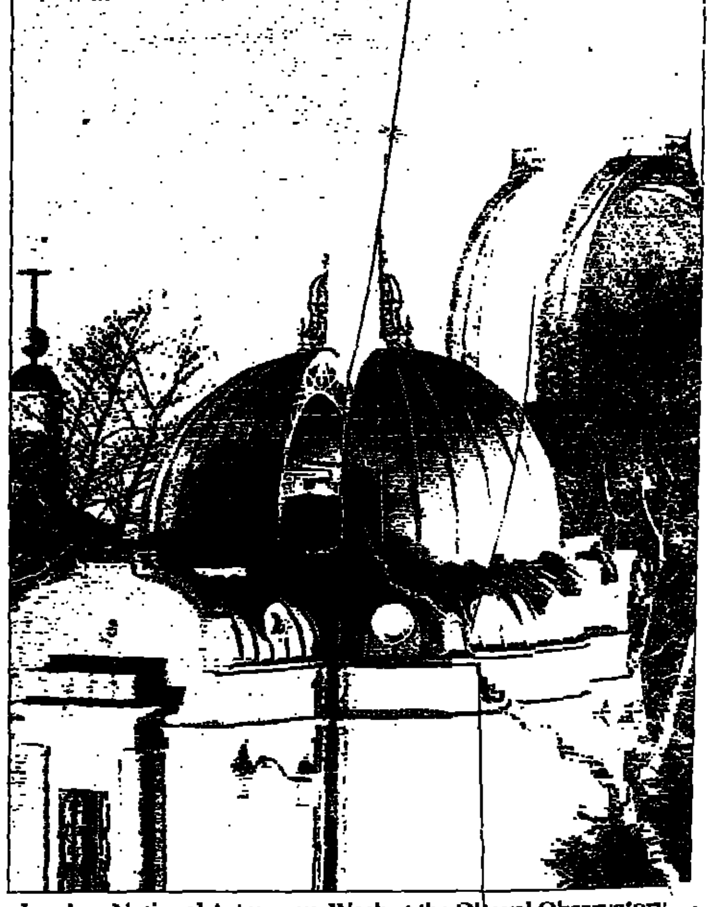
FAIRS

■ **LONDON**
Adams Antiques Fair
Wide range of glass, silver, jewellery, porcelain, furniture and decorative items on offer.
Kensington Town Hall,
Hornton Street, W8 (0171-937 5464). Tomorrow, 10am-4.30pm; £1.50, child free.

Chelsea Antiques Fair
British exhibitors offering high quality collectables.
Chelsea Old Town Hall,
King's Road, SW3 (0171-352 3619). Today, 11am-6pm; £5, child free.

Collectors Film Convention
Massive film fair with more than 100 stalls offering movie memorabilia.
Westminster Central Hall,
Storeys Gate, SW1 (0171-222 4163/8010). Today, 10am-5pm; £1-£2.50.

National Astronomy Week
Series of lectures and other activities for the 150th anniversary of the discovery of Neptune, including great astronomers reminiscing about their work.
National Maritime Museum,
Romney Road, SE10 (0181-858 4422). Starts today, tomorrow, phone for details; £5.50, concs £4.50, child £3, family £16.


London: National Astronomy Week at the Ol oyal Observatory

■ **REGIONAL**

DUBLIN
Antiques and Collectables Fair
Wide display of silver, glass, porcelain, prints, paintings and more on offer.
Newman House,
St Stephen's Green (00 3531 670 8295). Tomorrow, 11am-6pm; £1, accompanied children free.

GLASGOW
Glasgow International Festival of Design
Key designs to the industry on show.
Various venues.
Today, tomorrow, times vary; phone 0141-204 4411 for details.

MAIDSTONE, Kent
Leeds Castle Flower Festival
See the colourful flower displays, themed around classical music.
Leeds Cast
(01622 765 . Ends today, 11am-6pm: concs £6.30, child £5.20

SOUTHA PTON
Southamp International Boat Show
Last weeke to see the on-water boat ow.
Western E nade,
(01784 4733 . Today, ends tomorrow, am-7pm; £7.50, child free.

POP

■ **LONDON**
Luka Bloom
Irish singer-songwriter, brother of Christy Moore.
Jazz Café,
Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tomorrow, 7pm; £12.

Blue Rodeo
Atmospheric Canadian roots-rock combo.
Borderline,
Manette Street, Charing Cross Road, W1 (0171-734 2095). Tonight, 8pm, tomorrow, 7pm; £8.

Phil Guy
Chicago blues from Buddy Guy's little brother.
100 Club,
Oxford Street, W1 (0171-636 0933). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; admission £8.

Scud Mountain Boys
Alternative country-rock group from Minnesota.
Rough Trade Shop,
Talbot Road, W11 (0171-792 3490). Tonight, 6pm; free.

■ **REGIONAL**

BLACKWOOD, Gwent
Mike Peters
Solo sets from the leader of Welsh epic rockers the Alarm.
Miners Institute,
(01495 227206). Tomorrow, 8pm; £6.

BOURNEMOUTH
Johnny Mathis
American balladeer sings his new collection of love songs.
Bournemouth International Centre,
Exeter Road (01202 297297). Tonight, 7pm; £22.50-£27.50.

BRENTWOOD
Brentwood International Blues Festival
Brett Marvin and the Thunderbolts, Gregg Wright's Left Hook, Robbie McIntosh and Ben Waters, Will Killeen, Motel Kings (today); the Hamsters, Tony TS McPhee, Denny Newman's Blues Ltd, Deep, Dave Kelly (tomorrow).
Hermit Club,
Shenfield Road (01277 218897). Today, 2pm, tomorrow, midday; £18.50, day tickets £10.

BRISTOL
Mike Peters, Sid Griffin
See Blackwood.
The Fleece,
St Thomas Street (0117-927 7150). Tonight, 7.30pm; £6.

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London: singer-songwriter Luka Bloom at the Jazz Café

DONCASTER
Levellers
Brighton-based folk-rock festival favourites.
The Dome,
Bawtry Road (01302 370999). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; admission £10.

MANCHESTER
Blue Nile
Acclaimed ambient pop band touring a new album, *Peace at Last*.
Opera House,
Quay Street (0161-242 2503). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £12.50.

SHEFFIELD
Super Furry Animals
Welsh psychedelic indie-pop band.
Leadmill,
Leadmill Road (0114-275 4500). Tonight, 9.30pm; £7, concs £6.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

THE BLUETONES
Touring America may have done for Oasis, but the Bluetones are made of sterner stuff. With a romping new single, *Marblehead Johnson*, poised to enter the chart tomorrow, the band returns to start an autumn tour which should confirm their status as heirs apparent to the Britpop crown. With their refreshing mixture of guitar-based tunes rooted in the best traditions of English alternative pop, the quartet from Hounslow will be much in evidence in the coming weeks, though tickets may be harder to find.
DAVID SINCLAIR
***Westcliff Pavilion*,**
Southend-on-Sea (01702 351135). Tomorrow, 8pm; £8.50.

SWINDON
RAW 96
Corduroy, the Brotherhood, 9 Below Zero, Peter Andre, C & C Music Factory, MN8, Michelle Gayle, Upside Down.
Wroughton Airfield,
(01793 525588). Today, 11am-11pm; £17.50.

CLASSICAL

■ **LONDON**
Alla Dyeva/Konstantin Ardakov
Collection of works by Glinka, Mussorgsky, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov.
Purcell Room,
South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow, 3.15pm; £5-£8.50.

Connexions
A Russian flavour to the evening, featuring chamber works by Rachmaninov and Shostakovich.
Queen Elizabeth Hall,
South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.45pm; £6.50-£12.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

ELGAR IN BULK
The chance to hear Sir Edward Elgar's three great oratorios in one weekend comes rarely. *The Dream of Gerontius* was performed last night at the Barbican, but still to come are *The Apostles* (tonight, 7.30pm) and *The Kingdom* (tomorrow, 4pm). For many years these epic choral works — dealing with the central Christian beliefs about life and the afterlife — were considered to be interesting but not quite vintage Elgar; now opinions are changing. Richard Hickox, who was born to conduct this sort of music, directs the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus.
RICHARD MORRISON
***Barbican*,**
Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891).

Edith Wiens/Oliver Widmer
Featuring 27 lieder settings of Morike by Hugo Wolf.
Wigmore Hall,
Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm; £7.50-£15.

Mobius
Chamber music by Ravel, Bach, Schubert, Weber.
St John's,
Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061). Tonight, 7.30pm; £6-£10.

■ **REGIONAL**

BRADFORD
English Northern Philharmonia/Lloyd-Jones
Rachmaninov's *Symphonic Dances*.
St George's Hall,
Bridge Street (01274 752000). Tonight, 7.30pm; £8-£15.50.

GLASGOW
BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra/Brabbins
Liszt's *Mephisto Waltz*, D'Albert's Second Piano Concerto, Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony.
Stevenson Hall,
Renfrew Street (0141-332 5057). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £10, concs £6.

LEWES
London Philharmonic/Norrington
Cecilia Bartoli sings Mozart and Rossini arias.
Glyndebourne Opera House,
(01273 8138133). Tonight, 5pm; £100-£300.

MANCHESTER
BBC Philharmonic/Tortelier
Messiaen's *Turangalila Symphony*, Poulenc's *Gloria*.
Bridgewater Hall,
Lower Mosely Street (0161-907 9000). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £10, concs £7.

NEWTOWN
BBC National Orchestra of Wales/Otaki
Sibelius's Second Symphony, plus Mozart's Symphony No 1.
Theatr Hafren,
Llanidloes Road (01686 625007). Tomorrow, 7pm; £10, concs £8.

OPERA

■ **LONDON**
A Midsummer Night's Dream
English National Opera revives Robert Carsen's staging of Britten's opera, conducted by Steuart Bedford: Lillian Watson as Tytania, Peter Rose as Bottom.
London Coliseum,
St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300). Tonight, 6.30pm; £6.50-£55.

■ **REGIONAL**

SHEFFIELD
La Traviata
Music Theatre London performs Verdi's classic tragedy.
Crucible Theatre,
Norfolk Street (0114-276 9922). Tonight, 7.30pm; £8.50-£15.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

DAS RHEINGOLD
The first of the Royal Opera's three *Ring* cycles is launched with the one-act *Prologue*, and there are surprises in Richard Jones's exhilaratingly fresh production from the start: rubbery Rhinemaidens promising more than their fair share of pneumatic bliss. The ace cast is led by John Tomlinson, Jane Henschel, Ekkehard Wlaschiha and Philip Langridge, and whatever happens on stage to mystify or tickle one's fantasy, Bernard Haitink is in the pit to maintain Wagnerian musical standards unsurpassable anywhere in the world today.
RODNEY MILNES
***Royal Opera House*,**
Bow Street, London WC2 (0171-304 4000). Today, 7.30pm; £7-£147.50.

London: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Coliseum

COMEDY

■ **LONDON**
Comics for Asylum
Fast-talking Ben Elton, Mark Thomas, Uzma Hameed, Jeremy Hardy, Mark Steel and guests.
Hackney Empire,
Mare Street, E8 (0181-985 2424). Tomorrow, 8pm; £10, concs £8.

Cosmic Comedy Club
George Egg, Dave Thompson, Sean Meo, Jo Caulfield, Jeff Innocent.
Astro Bar and Cosmic Comedy Club,
Fulham Palace Road, W6 (0171-381 2006). Tonight, 8.30pm; £8.

Downstairs at the King's Head
Huw Thomas MCs for Adam Bloom, Anthony King, Jack Russell, Joey Lee and Keith Collins.
Downstairs at the King's Head,
Crouch End Hill, N8 (0181-340 1028). Tomorrow, 8.30pm; £4.50, concs £3.50.

Jongleurs Camden
Sean Meo, Phil Davey, Vladimir McTavish and Bill Bailey. Tim Clark MCs.
Jongleurs Comedy Camden Lock,
Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (0171-924 2766). Tonight, 7.15pm and 11.15pm; £10, concs £7.

Red Plimsoll Comedy Club
Timandra MCs for Kevin Precious, Earl Okin, Paul Tonkinson, Gina Ryan.
The Plimsoll Arms,
St Thomas's Road, N4 (0171-288 1633). Tonight, 9pm; £6, concs £4.

Screaming Blue Murder
Miles Crawford, Ian Stone and Jo Enright.
The Studio,
Beckenham Road, Beckenham (0181-663 0103). Tonight, 9pm; £5.50, concs £5.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

COMICS FOR ASYLUM
Ben "Popcorn" Elton, the comic who is currently causing a stir by taking a serious view of screen violence, heads this benefit evening on Sunday. It is in support of Asylum Aid, an organisation which provides independent advice for refugees and those seeking asylum in Britain. The hilariously dry Jeremy Hardy is also lined up, joined by Mark Steel, Mark Thomas and lesser names. Leon Rosselson sings. Uzma Hameed comperes. The historic, pretty Hackney Empire is worth a visit in itself.
KATE BASSETT
***Hackney Empire*,**
291 Mare Street, E8 (0181-985 2424). Tomorrow, 8pm (doors 7pm).

■ **REGIONAL**

BRISTOL
Comedy Box
BBC Stand Up Comedy Award-winner Marcus Brigstocke, plus Rex Boyd and Brendon Burns.
The Bristol Flyer,
Gloucester Road (0117-942 1779). Tonight, 8.45pm; £5.

CAMBRIDGE
Victoria Wood
Cheadle Hulme's favourite comedy star.
Corn Exchange,
Wheeler Street (01223 357851). Tonight, 7.30pm; phone for availability.

DERBY
Bob Downe
Hair-lacquered crooner in nylon with a new song and dance routine.
Assembly Rooms,
Market Place (01332 255800). Tomorrow, 8pm; £8.50.

OXFORD
Greg Proops
The resident American from *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*
Rose Theatre,
Rose Place, St Aldates (01865 798600). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; phone for prices.

FILMS

Films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

■ **NEW RELEASES**

Antonia's Line (15)
A Dutch woman's feisty life. Feel-good movie from Marleen Gorris; this year's winner of the Best Foreign Film Oscar.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) *Gate* ♿ (0171-727 4043) *Ritzy* (0171-737 2121) *Virgin Chelsea* (0171-352 5096)

◆ **Escape from LA** (15)
Blowsy action movie from John Carpenter, set in a lawless Los Angeles of 2013. With Kurt Russell.
Empire (0800-888 911) *UCI Whiteleys* ♿ (0990 888990) *Virgins: Fulham Road* (0171-370 2636) *Trocadero* ♿ (0171-434 0031)

The Great White Hype (15)
Flat-footed sports satire, with Samuel L Jackson as a flamboyant boxing impresario. Director, Reginald Hudlin.
Odeon West End (01426-915 574) *Ritzy* (0171-737 2121)

Guantanamera (15)
Lethargic Cuban satire with a few bright trimmings. Directors, Tomás Gutiérrez Alea and Juan Carlos Tabío.
Metro (0171-437 0757)

The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love (15)
Gauche but sweet tale of teenage lesbians, written and directed by Maria Maggenti. With Laurel Holloman, Nicole Parker.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) *Clapham Picture House* (0171-498 3323) *Metro* (0171-437 0757) *Virgin Fulham Road* (0171-370 2636)

◆ **Striptease** (15)
Demi Moore's stripper seeks custody of her daughter. Clumsy mixture of sex, satire and melodrama, with Burt Reynolds. Director, Andrew Bergman.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) *Odeons: Kensington* (01426-914 666) *Swiss Cottage* (0171-586 3057) *West End* (01426 915574) *UCI Whiteleys* (0171-792 3332) *Virgin Chelsea* (0171-352 5096)

■ **CURRENT**

◆ **Emma** (U)
Gwyneth Paltrow shines in a Jane Austen adaptation that leans too much towards the pretty-pretty. With Jeremy Northam. Director, Douglas McGrath.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) *Chelsea* (0171-351 3742) *Clapham Picture House* (0171-498 3323) *Minema* (0171-235 4225) *Odeons: Haymarket* (01426 915353) *Kensington* (01426 914666) *Renoir* (0171-837 8402) *Ritzy* (0171-737 2121) *Screen on Baker Street* (0171-935 2772) *Screen on the Hill* ♿ (0171-435 3366) *UCI Whiteleys* ♿ (0990 888990) *Warner* ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **James and the Giant Peach** (U)
Mistreated James finds his feet i peach voyaging acros he Atlantic. Excellent anim ed version of Roald Dahl book, from the team behi *The Nightmare Befo Christmas*. Director, Hen Selick.
Ode s: Kensington (0142 914666) *Swiss Cottage* (014 914098) *Rio* (0171-254 77) *UCI Whiteleys* (0171-792 32) *Virgin Chelsea* (017 52 5096) *Warner* ♿ (017 37 4343)

emi Moore and daughter umer tar in *Striptease*

◆ **Mulh lland Fa s** (15)
Handso e but muted myster thriller set in 1950s Los A geles. With Nick Nolte John Malkovich, Mel nie Griffith, Chazz Pal inte i and Michael Mad e . Director, Lee Tama ori.
Odeo Kensington (0142 666) *Swiss Cottage* (0142 4098) *UCI White s* ♿ (0990 888990) *Virgi helsea* (0171-352 5096) *arner* ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **St ng Beauty** (15)
Ligh nd enjoyable Bert cci film about an Ame n teenager's sexu lowering in Tuscany. With v Tyler, Jeremy Iron Sinead Cusack and Rac Weisz.
Lum e (0171-836 0691) *Od Kensington* (01426 9146) *Screen on Baker Str* (0171-935 2772) *Virgin Ch a* (0171-352 5096)

CR IC'S CHOICE

A ME TO KILL (15)
A nbustible film version of Jo Grisham's first novel. T story alone is fiery en gh (white lawyer defends bl k man for murdering the re ecks who raped his y ng daughter). Then direc to Joel Schumacher fans the f mes by inflating scenes b ond safety limits. Power f scenes with Samuel Jackson, the avenging ther, and Matthew cConaughey's inexperi nced attorney; but Sandra ullock seems to have drifted n from another film entirely.
GEOFF BROWN
ABC Tottenham Court Road **(0171-636 6148) *Barbican* ♿ (0171-638 8891) *Clapham Picture House* (0171-498 3323) *MGM Baker Street* (0171-935 9772) *Notting Hill Coronet* ♿ (0171-727 6705) *Odeon Swiss Cottage* (01426 914098) *Rio* (0171-254 6677) *Screen/Green* (0171-226 3520) *UCI Whiteleys* ♿ (0990 888990) *Virgins: Fulham Road* (0171-370 2636) *Haymarket* (0171-839 1527) *Trocadero* ♿ (0171-434 0031) *Warner* (0171-437 4343)**

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THEATRE

Faust Parts 1 and 2
Michael Bogdanov's mighty two-part production of Goethe's drama, with Michael Feast and Hugh Quarshie.
The Pit, Barbican,
Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Today: Part 1, 2.30pm; Part 2, 7.15pm.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

THE OEDIPUS PLAYS
A great king becomes the scapegoat for a city and, after years spent blindly stumbling through the countryside, ends up as another city's semi-divine protector. With the help of masks, music, stunning visual effects and somewhat stylised acting, Peter Hall's pacey yet sombre revival of *Oedipus Rex* and the less familiar *Oedipus at Colonus* reminds us that Sophocles's plays had their ritual aspects; yet we are never in doubt that the real subject is the meaning of a man's suffering.
BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE
***Olivier, National*,**
South Bank (0171-928 2252).
Tonight, 7pm.
At 5.30pm, Peter Stothard, Editor of The Times, *in conversation with Sir Peter Hall in the Olivier.*

The Seven Streams of the River Ota
Robert Lepage's company, Ex Machina, brings his fable of life and death in Hiroshima since 1945. Complete show lasts seven and a half hours (inc interval).
National (Lyttelton),
South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Opens today, 2.45pm. Complete show, today and tomorrow, 2.45pm.

Uncle Vanya
Bill Bryden's starry Chichester cast of Frances Barber, Constance Cummings, Trevor Eve, Derek Jacobi, Peggy Mount, with Richard Johnson in place of Alec McCowen.
Albery,
St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Tonight, 7.30pm; mat, 3pm.

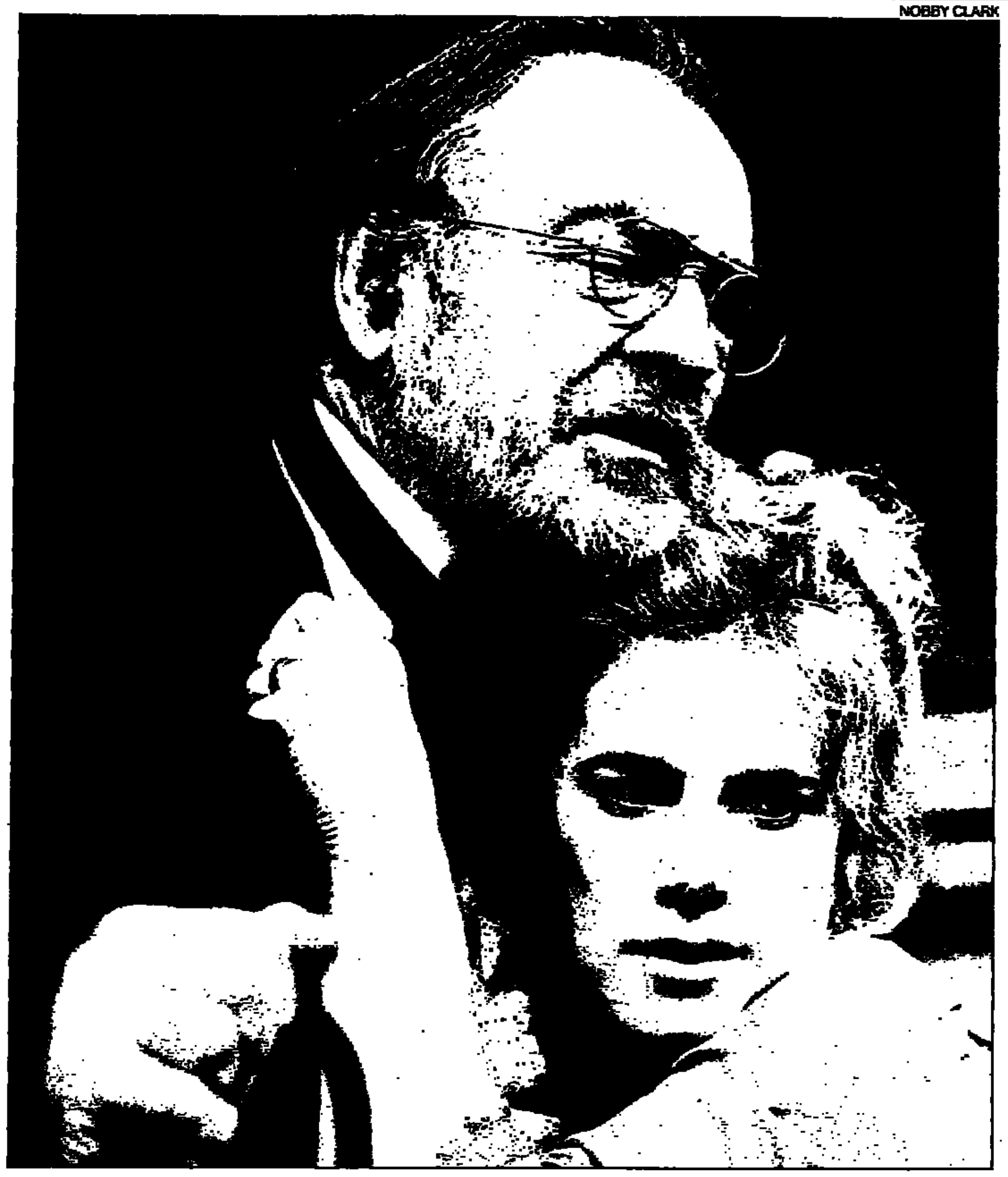
■ REGIONAL

BIRMINGHAM
The Alchemist
A co-production with the National Theatre. Bill Alexander sets Ben Jonson's drama in a post-apocalyptic future. With *Simon Callow, Josie Lawrence* and Tim Pigott-Smith.
Repertory,
Centenary Square (0121-236 4455). Tonight, 7.30pm; mat, 3pm.

MALVERN
Of Mice and Men
Geoff Bullen directs Steinbeck's powerful stage adaptation of his Depression-era drama. With Clive Mantle and Lou Hirsch.
Festival Theatre,
Grange Road (01684 892277). Tonight, 8pm; mat, 2.30pm.

MOLD
Silas Marner
George Eliot's absorbing novel of injustice, miserliness and redemption, performed by a cast of actor-musicians with a score by Peter Knight. Directed by Tim Baker.
Theatr Clwyd,
(01352 755114). Tonight, 7.45pm.

SPALDING
The Comedy of Errors
Tim Supple's outstanding production from Stratford. More serious and thus more moving than usual.
Castle Sports Complex,
Albion Street (01775 725031). Last performance tonight, 7.30pm.


NOBBY CLARK

London: Richard Johnson as Serebryakov and Imogen Stubbs as Yelena in *Uncle Vanya*

COMING SOON

■ LONDON
From Oct 10
Mojo
Jez Butterworth's Olivier Award-winning comedy opens the Royal Court's new residency in the West End at the Duke of York's Theatre. Box office: 0171-730 1745.

From Nov 21
The Cherry Orchard
The Royal Shakespeare Company's production of Chekhov's play, with Penelope Wilton and Alec McCowen among the cast, transfers to the West End. Prior to its London run, it will return for a short season to the Swan Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon from Oct 9-Nov 9. Box office: 0171-369 1730 (London); 01789 295623 (Stratford).

From Dec 9
Guys and Dolls
The National Theatre is reviving the extremely popular and memorable 1992 production by Richard Eyre of Frank Loesser's quintessential Broadway musical. The cast is led by Henry Goodman, Imelda Staunton, Clarke Peters and Joanna Riding. Box office: 0171-928 2252.

■ REGIONAL

LEEDS
Nov 1-Dec 7
A Perfect Ganesh
Prunella Scales and Eleanor Bron lead the cast in the British premiere of Terrence McNally's off-Broadway play at the West Yorkshire Playhouse. Box office: 0113 2442111.

On tour: Celine Dion goes nationwide in November

MOLD
Oct 2-26
The House of Bernarda Alba
Di Trevis directs a cast that includes Ellie Haddington and Gillian Hanna in Lorca's masterpiece of mourning and marriage in 1930s Spain. Theatr Clwyd. Box office: 01352 755114.

TOURING
November
Celine Dion
Canadian chart-topper appearing at Cardiff International Arena (Nov 11, 01222 230130), Sheffield Arena (Nov 13, 0114-256 5656) Manchester Arena (Nov 14, 0161-930 8000), Wembley Arena, London (Nov 16-17, 28-29; 0181-900 1234), SECC, Glasgow (Nov 19-20, 0141-248 9999) and NEC, Birmingham (Nov 22-23, 0121-780 4133).

JAZZ

■ LONDON
Mervyn Africa with the Eclectic String Quartet
Abdullah Ibrahim-styled South African pianist links up with Gaby Farrell's arty New York quartet.
Purcell Room,
South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 8pm; £10.

Tom Browne
Jazz-funk trumpeter, best known for his dance floor classic *Funkin' for Jamaica*.
Jazz Café,
Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tonight, 7pm; £12.

Elvin Jones Jazz Machine
John Coltrane's legendary 1960s drummer features John's son, Ravi Coltrane, on drums and Delfayo Marsalis on trombone, with singer Ian Shaw.
Ronnie Scott's,
Frith Street, W1 (0171-439 0747). Tonight, 9pm; £12.

George Melly and John Chilton's Feetwarmers
Satchmo-styled swing singer features trumpeter Humphrey Lyttelton.
Daewoo Motor Show, West Five Centre,
Western Avenue, Ealing, W5 (0171-344 4444). Tonight, 6.30pm; £9.50.

Annie Ross
Popular Anglo-American singer who reached fame with 1950s vocal trio Lambert Hendricks and Ross.
Café Royal,
Regent Street, W1 (0171-437 9090). Tonight, tomorrow, 8pm; £25.

London: Tom Browne, the jazz-funk trumpeter

■ REGIONAL

BERKHAMSTEAD
Art Themen/Don Weller/Alan Barnes Sextet
Three top British jazz saxophonists are joined by pianist Dave Newton, bassist Andy Cleyndert and drummer Dave Barry.
Berkhamstead Jazz Society, Civic Centre,
(01525 220894). Tonight, 8pm; £7, mems £5.

BIRMINGHAM
Tommy Smith's Beasts of Scotland
Atmospheric tenorist plays settings of Scottish poetry, featuring histrionic trumpeter Guy Barker, multi-reedist Andy Panayi.
The Custard Factory,
Gibbs Street (0121-604 7777). Tonight, 8pm; £7.

BURTON UPON TRENT
Humphrey Lyttelton Band
Witty broadcaster, trad and swing trumpeter.
Burton Brewhouse,
Union Street (01283 567720). Tonight, 8pm; £12.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

SPIRIT OF DJANGO
The ghost of the greatest of all jazz guitarists, Django Reinhardt, is invoked in Martin Taylor's group, Spirit of Django. By no means a slavish copy of Reinhardt's Hot Club band, Taylor's line-up also draws on the talents of saxophonist Dave O'Higgins.
CLIVE DAVIS
***Ronnie Scott's*,**
Broad Street,
Birmingham (0121-643 4525).
Tonight, 9pm.

LEEDS
Nikki Yeoh's Infinitum
Funky London pianist.
The Yardbird Suite Jazz Club,
The Underground, T & C Club, Cookridge Street (0113-230 2669). Tonight, 8.30pm; £6, mems £5.

LEICESTER
Martin Taylor's Spirit of Django
See Birmingham.
Phoenix Arts,
Newarke Street (0116-255 4854). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £7.50, concs £5.

MANCHESTER
Andy Sheppard/Joanna MacGregor with In-Commotion, RNCM Big Band
Worldbeat-edged saxophonist plays with his fusion quintet In-Commotion and the Royal Northern College of Music Big Band, featuring pianist Joanna MacGregor and trombonist Gary Valente.
Bridgewater Hall,
Lower Mosely Street (0161-907 9000). Tonight, 9pm; £10.

DANCE

CRITIC'S CHOICE

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET: SWAN LAKE
This production by Peter Wright and Galina Samsova is one of the finest, respectful of the Tchaikovsky score and featuring lovely designs by Philip Prowse. Birmingham Royal Ballet fields two Odettes today: Monica Zamora at the matinée, Jennifer Muller tonight.
DEBRA CRAINE
***Hippodrome*,**
Hurst Street (0121-622 7486). Today 2.30pm and 7.30pm; £24.50-£35.

■ LONDON
Adventures in Motion Pictures: Swan Lake
Tchaikovsky's ballet in the award-winning interpretation by Matthew Bourne featuring the acclaimed all-male corps of swans.
Piccadilly Theatre,
Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Today, 2.30pm (Kemp/Wright/Mortimer); tonight, 7.30pm (Cooper/Ambler/Chadwick), £9.50-£30, standby concs available.

European Ballet: Carmen
Stanislav Tchassov choreographs the classic tale of love and passion running riot in Seville.
Hayes Beck Theatre,
Grange Road, Hayes (0181-561 8371). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £9.50-£10.50.

Jaleo: Flamenco
Celebrated flamenco company performs a new fiery programme of song and dance.
Queen Elizabeth Hall,
South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242).
Tomorrow, 7.45pm; £9-£13.50.

■ REGIONAL

BRADFORD
Northern Ballet Theatre: Dracula
Spine-chilling production adapted from Bram Stoker's classic, choreographed by Christopher Gable and Micheal Barrett-Pink and starring Denis Malinkine as the enigmatic Count.
Alhambra Theatre,
Morley Street (01274 752000). Today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm; £6-£22.

BRISTOL
Wendy Houstoun: Haunted and Daunted
Last year's Dance Umbrella success, *Haunted*, preceded by a new solo work, *Daunted*, accompanied by John Avery's music.
Arnolfini,
Narrow Quay (0117-929 9191). Tonight, 8pm; £7.

Bradford: *Dracula* by Northern Ballet Theatre

DUBLIN
Lord of the Dance
Michael Flatley of *Riverdance* fame stages a Celtic dance spectacular.
The Point,
East Link Bridge (00 3531 836 3633). Today 2.30pm and 8pm; £21.50-£27.50.

HALIFAX
Dublin Worldwide Dance Productions: Spirit of the Dance
International dance extravaganza featuring lilting harp music and Gospel New Orleans style, to platform the work of Irish, Russian and American companies.
Victoria Theatre,
Wards End (01422 351158). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £12.50-£17.50.

NORTHAMPTON
Georgian State Dance Company
Vibrant dance company recreating Georgian life throughout history.
Derngate,
Guildhall Road (01604 24811). Tomorrow, 5pm and 8pm; £12-£16.50.

WORTHING
Cwmni Ballet Gwent: Red Riding Hood and the Legend of Wolves
Elements from the Grimm Brothers' tale combine with the adult film version, *The Company of Wolves*. Choreographed by Darius James, with music by Felix Mendelssohn.
Connaught Theatre,
Union Place (01903

GALLERIES

■ LONDON
Blumenfeld: A Fetish for Beauty
Fashion and portrait photographer's work.
Barbican Art Gallery,
Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 4141). Today, 10am-6.45pm, tomorrow, midday-6.45pm; £4.50.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT CHINA
The emphasis on mystery is well justified. The later dynasties are well documented but ancient China, for all the intensive archaeological work of the past 25 years, is still little known and only very hazily understood. Often the great sources of evidence have been stumbled upon by chance, such as the field of the terracotta warriors in Xian or the two large pits full of bronze statues, jewels, jades and the bones of sacrificial animals in Guanghan, south-west China, which indicate an unknown civilisation more than 3,000 years ago. A number of pieces from this 1986 excavation are included and there are also such famous remains as the breathtaking jade burial suit from the tomb of the Lady Fu Hao (1200 BC).
JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR
***British Museum*,**
Great Russell Street,
London WC1 (0171-323 8783).
Today, 10am-4.50pm,
tomorrow 2.30-5.50pm; £5.

Tacita Dean: Foley Artist
Former Slade School artist explores the use of sound in film for the Art Now space.
Tate Gallery,
Millbank, SW1 (0171-887 8000). Today, 10am-5.50pm, tomorrow, 2-5.50pm; free.

Literati: Mark Gerson
Portraits of celebrities from the literary world.
National Portrait Gallery,
St Martin's Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055). Today, 10am-6pm, tomorrow, midday-6pm; free.

Robert Mapplethorpe
Acclaimed photographer's long-awaited retrospective.
Hayward Gallery,
Belvedere Road, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm; £5.

■ REGIONAL

CHICHESTER
New Sculpture at Goodwood
Work by Anthony Caro, Lynn Chadwick and Richard Deacon.
Sculpture at Goodwood,
Hat Hill Copse (01243 538449). Today, 10.30am-4.30pm; £10.

DURHAM
Bill Viola
New site-specific work from the master of spectacle.
Durham Cathedral,
Palace Green (0191-384 3720/386 4266). Today, tomorrow, phone for times; free.

EDINBURGH
Callum Innes
Series of paintings from the abstract artist.
Inverleith House, Royal Botanic Gardens,
Inverleith Row (0131-552 7171). Today, tomorrow, 10am-5pm; free.

GLASGOW
Charles Rennie Mackintosh
Retrospective by artist, designer and architect.
McLellan Galleries,
Sauchiehall Street (0141-331 1854). Today, 10am-8pm, tomorrow, 11am-8pm; £4.

LIVERPOOL
Home and Away: Internationalism and British Art 1900-1990
Large-scale show including work by Stanley Spencer, Freud and Bacon.
Tate Gallery Liverpool,
Albert Dock (0151-709 3223). Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm; free.

Rachel Whiteread
Previous Turner Prize-winner's sculptures.
Tate Gallery,
Albert Dock (0151-709 3223). Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm; £2.50, concs £1.

ST IVES
Mark Rothko in Cornwall
Rothko's work redefined in context with St Ives-based artists.
St Ives Tate Gallery,
Porthmeor Beach (01736 796226). Today, 11am-7pm, tomorrow, 11am-5pm; £3, concs £1.50.

DON'T MISS . . .

- **The Oedipus Plays: Peter Hall's gripping productions of Sophocles: see Theatre**
- **National Astronomy Week: extravaganza for stargazers, young and old. See Fairs**
- **Mysteries of Ancient China: astonishing treasures at the British Museum. See Galleries**

Ruth Gledhill joins the Browning Society's celebration of a marriage

Souls of poets dead and gone

ALTHOUGH we were there to celebrate a marriage, St Marylebone parish church, a sombre building at the best of times, seemed filled with an atmosphere that was somehow spooky. *If thou must love me, let it be for nought Except for love's sake only*, someone whispered nearby, exactly 150 years on from the few minutes in which Robert Browning wed Elizabeth Barrett on exactly the same spot. Unlike the emptiness in which they married, in secret and against the wishes of Elizabeth's tyrannical father, the church was packed, with members of the Browning Society and scholars from all over the world as well as members of their respective families, united now as they were divided then.

"We give thanks, especially, that they acted on their deepest feelings and, committing themselves to each other, risked an uncertain future that was to lead them far from family and friends," we prayed. "We rejoice in the personal fulfilment of their marriage and the consequent enrichment of their poetry." The couple's story is all the more romantic in that Elizabeth's life seemed destined, for many years, to end in loneliness and tragedy. After a happy childhood in the Malvern Hills she fell seriously ill at 15 and the Barrett family moved to Wimpole Street in London.

Her father, devastated by the death of [illegible] prohibited her from marry-

fragile, secluded herself for years in her room, behind a web of ivy and a double door. The fire was lit all year round and her two dogs slept with her. The room was barely dusted. In her letters she described how the spiders had grown tame and their webs part of the scene.

There was an adjoining door to her father's room, and they prayed together every night. Browning, whom she had never met, wrote to her: "I love your verses with all my heart . . . and I love you too." Browning did not resent her father's jealousy, because he considered Elizabeth, aged 40, a treasure who should be guarded with vigilance. Nevertheless, her father's grief-stricken stubbornness left them no choice but to elope, which they did, to Italy but not until a week after the wedding.

Leslie Griffiths, a Methodist minister at Wesley's chapel in the City of London, preached. In our day their story would create banner headlines in the tabloids, he said. "But behind it lies the monumental struggle for Elizabeth's soul. The great thing is the love Robert had for Elizabeth. That great thing points to the struggle taking place in her mind and for her heart. This particular story points not only to people who have loved, but to the whole human race. At its heart, is the tension between Elizabeth's love for her father and her love for Robert.

"Two principles of the great Judeo-Christian ethic are brought into conflict: to love father and mother, and in marriage to leave father and mother." Elizabeth was proud and independent but she came to see that "only an act of submission, a surrender of self, could allow her to experience the true love that was coming her way".

Elizabeth's despotic father never forgave her. At this celebration of their marriage, tinged with sadness, we wondered who held her now. "*Death*," *I said. But, there, the silver answer rang..."Not Death, but Love."*

St Marylebone Parish Church, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5LT (0171-935 7315). For further information on the Browning Society contact Dr Marie Calcraft

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ARCHITECTURE: Consecrated in 1817 and radically altered in 1884, this magnificent church is enhanced by glittering chandeliers donated in 1968 from the Marylebone council chamber ★★★★

SERMON: Dr Griffiths, a Methodist, preached a moving tribute to the Brownings, who were both dissenters.★★★★

MUSIC: The two poets' words set to music, and sung by soloist Catherine Peacock. ★★★★★

LITURGY: Poems, prayers, hymns and reflections on the lives of Elizabeth and Robert.★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: As strange as dreams of distant spheres.★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Pastoral and spiritual. St Marylebone's has transformed its crypt into a healing and counselling centre

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TRAVEL TO THE GOLDEN DOMES AND SPLENDOURS OF IRAN

Why he can't stomach it

A Vet Writes . . .

Few dogs go through life without at least one bout of "V&D" — vomiting and diarrhoea. An unhappy event, a thorough nuisance, but life-threatening only to the very young or very old.

Adult dogs can have diarrhoea one day and be normal next morning without treatment. It is reasonable to wait 24 hours before going to the vet if Fido's simply leaky, but bright and cheerful in every other way. Three or four days' delay is too long and if he has vomited several times, 24 hours' inaction is enough. Gastroenteritis — usually GE — is a general diagnosis of almost all V&Ds. It means no more than inflammation of the stomach and intestine. Any "itis" means inflammation; "gastro" refers to the stomach; "enter" to the intestines. GE does not indicate the reason for the trouble.

Whatever the cause, dehydration can be a major problem. Fluid is lost in liquid motions and when the dog vomits. It must be replaced, but filling the water bowl is not the answer. The dog feels thirsty and has a good drink. His inflamed stomach does not appreciate half a pint of water and rejects it — plus an ounce or so of normal gastric juice. The net result is a loss of fluid. The dog feels even thirstier, drinks more, vomits again, with a further loss. If he drank a tablespoonful of water and retained it, this would be progress — and half an hour later he might keep down an eggcupful.

Most dogs are sick from time to time. Dogs' stomachs can cope with some revolting foods. Our pets' ancestors relied on long-dead carrion as a major part of their diet. But there are limits. If Fido finds something smelly and horrible, long past its "eat by" date, he has a built-in first aid mechanism. He vomits the offending material.

Nursing bitches will vomit food for their pups to eat: it is part of the weaning process. Greedy dogs relieve an overloaded stomach by ejecting the contents then re-eating them. The food stays put a second time around.

There are dozens of causes of gastroenteritis. A precise diagnosis takes time and needs veterinary tests and advice. Don't wait too long and don't make things worse in the meanwhile by allowing him to drink — and vomit — ad lib.

JAMES ALLCOCK

It is not just human beings who suffer back problems — four-legged friends may need treatment too

JOEL CHANT NEWSTE

Osteopath Anthony Pusey sets to work manipulating a sedated horse. The aim is to make the horse more comfortable by loosening limbs and making the animal more supple

The animal manipulators

Anthony Pusey, an osteopath, was not surprised to receive a call from a patient requesting he come immediately because Jack was rolling around the kitchen floor in agony. He had already treated the caller, his wife and one of his sons, and so presumed Jack was another son. But he was in for a surprise, for Jack turned out to be an Alsatian. In his ten years as a practising osteopath Mr Pusey had never treated an animal and he had to explain he could not do so (no one may treat an animal unless they are the owner, a vet or someone acting under the supervision of or in consultation with a vet).

Now, 15 years since his meeting with Jack, Mr Pusey is one of the top animal osteopaths in Britain with a practice in West Sussex and a consultancy at an equine hospital in Oxfordshire. He also co-ordinates the Masters degree course module at the British School of Naturopathy and Osteopathy in London.

One osteopath who studied under Mr Pusey is Emma Ross. "It has been known for a human patient to come to me and say they're having a problem with their back and then coincidentally ask me to treat their dog, who also has a back problem," she says.

Animal osteopathy differs little from that performed on humans. The osteopath aims to cure a condition and relieve pain. The onset of old age can bring its problems for pets. Hip displacement is an orthopaedic problem found in certain large breeds of dogs. It causes the back legs to become unsteady and the limbs stiff and painful.

Osteopathy will not cure it but, according to Mr Pusey, treatment can alleviate the condition. "Hip displacement can cause back problems which we can treat with osteopathy," Ms Ross says. "By doing that, we can often help the limbs — but it doesn't cure what is a hip problem.

"In some old dogs, however, you know they won't get better. What we aim to do is to make them more comfortable by loosening parts that have become tight and making the animal more supple," she says. "Osteopathy is a gentle process, although you do need some strength. But it's more about technique than force."

Mr Pusey might also have wished for more strength on occasions. In common with most osteopaths working with horses, he prefers to have them sedated. "The worst a dog can do is bite you. Horses can bite and kick."

As horses are relaxed by the sedative they can lean forward resting their considerable weight on the osteopath. Eighteen months ago Mr Pusey's years of propping up sedated horses gave him a hernia so he no longer treats them alone.

Mr Pusey charges between £28 and £30 for a 30 to 40 minute consultation.

While the majority of work done by animal osteopaths is with domestic pets and farm animals such as horses, cows and sheep, Tony Nevin is happy to treat wild animals. "I get the joy of treating an animal, which would otherwise not survive, and getting it back to the wild," he says.

Mr Nevin's CV reads like that of the ship's surgeon on Noah's Ark. In his work at the Gloucestershire Wildlife Reserve Centre and his own clinical practice, he has treated wild animals as diverse as bats, badgers, iguanas, elephants, foxes and recently the oldest Brazilian tapir in captivity. He is currently treating a Burmese elephant with a lower back problem. He charges £25 for the initial consultation and £20 for each consultation after that.

The good news is that while the pet makes a full recovery, the pet owner can make a different kind of recovery. Treatment methods once regarded as cranky by insurance companies are now widely accepted. "So long as it's recommended by a vet, we pay out for alternative therapies," says Paul Cosgrove of insurers Pet Plan.

As for Jack, his owner was able to contact the vet so that Mr Pusey could consult with him. After three of Ms Pusey's treatments, Jack was back to his old self.

BRENDAN MARTIN

OSTEOPATH FACT FILE

- **Anthony Pusey, Awbrook Lodge, Lewes Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 7TB (01444 831576/01444 831211).**
- **Tony Nevin, The Old Convent, Beeches Green, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL4 4AD (01453 766394).**
- ***To find osteopaths in your area, for yourself or your pet,* contact the Osteopathic Information Service, PO Box 2074, Reading, Berkshire RG1 4YR (01734 512051).**

PET NEWS

Call for pets to be on prescription

NATIONAL Cat Week ends tomorrow. It was preceded by a prediction that the day when pets will be readily available on prescription is getting closer. This was from Sam Ahmedzai, a professor of palliative medicine at Sheffield University, who is leading a campaign to place the study of the human-companion animal bond higher up the UK research agenda. According to the Cat Protection League: "Despite considerable medical evidence supporting the beneficial health aspects of owning and stroking a pet, only 4 per cent of residential/nursing homes in the UK offer accommodation for pet owners and just one in seven keep their own cat for residents to interact with." Events this weekend, which have been organised by Cat Protection League regions, include a gala at Drill Hall, Broadgate, Lincoln, today 10am; open days at North London Shelter, 135 Junction Road, Archway, London N19, today, noon; Ryde Centre, Isle of Wight, today, noon; Whiteley Centre, Warsop, tomorrow, 2pm; Maypole Cat Fayre, Maypole Inn, Yapton, Chichester, tomorrow, 11am; as well as many other local events. For details, call your local branch of the Cat Protection League.

Owning a cat has medical benefits

Courses for horses

GONE are the days when feeding your horse consisted of filling a nosebag with oats. Today's pampered ponies have their own nutrient-rich formulas. The latest addition is the Blue Chip feed balancer developed by Clare Baskey for her own show horse. Blue Chip. Call 01142 666200 for a brochure. Ms Baskey, who also offers a feeding advice line on 01246 582560, says: "Owners are often confused about feeding and I saw this as an opportunity to develop a feed that offers peace of mind and helps to create healthier, happier horses."

New rabbit home

THE rapidly expanding British House Rabbit Association has a new address and a newsletter coming out soon: Write to BHRA, PO Box 346, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE99.

JACK CROSSLEY

Swallows but no amazons

Feather Report

LAST WEEK I found a swallow's nest in Venice. I was standing on the bridge just by the little "school" where the wonderful Carpaccio paintings are housed, when I saw a swallow wheeling over the canal between some moored gondolas. Suddenly it flew up to the front of one of the houses on the canalside, stayed there a moment, and flew off again. I went down from the bridge, and above the doorway, on a modern electric light fitting under a Renaissance balcony, I found its mud nest.

It must have been feeding some late young, though I could not see them from below. It is quite unusual to find a swallow nesting in the heart of a city, but Venice is rather different from other cities, and the bird probably caught enough insects above the canals and along the edge of the lagoon. Mosquitoes doubtless figured prominently in its diet.

Swallows have always been opportunistic nesters. They probably nested originally in caves, but saw their chance when mankind became farmers and switched their allegiance to barns. Nowadays, wooden barns with convenient rafters are dwindling in numbers, and swallows are suffering because of it. But they are adaptable. Last year, in a Bedfordshire village, I found a pair nesting under the roof of a little wooden pavilion on a triangle of grass at the village crossroads.

Most of the northern European swallows are now on their way south, with flocks of several thousand often stopping to feed over reservoirs and fens. But some young birds are still around the farmyards — and you can see them playing, picking up a feather in the air, then dropping it for another to snatch.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — visit the coast to see migrating sea birds and waders. Twitchers — blue-winged teal, Abberton reservoir, Essex: pectoral sandpiper, Blithfield, reservoir, Staffs: spotted crake, Titchwell, Norfolk. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.*

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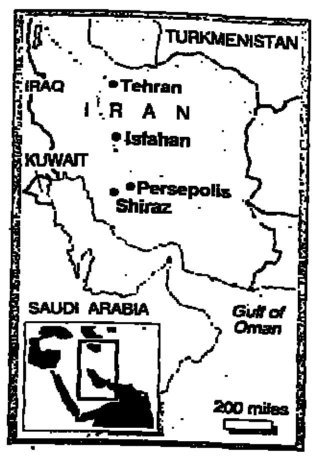
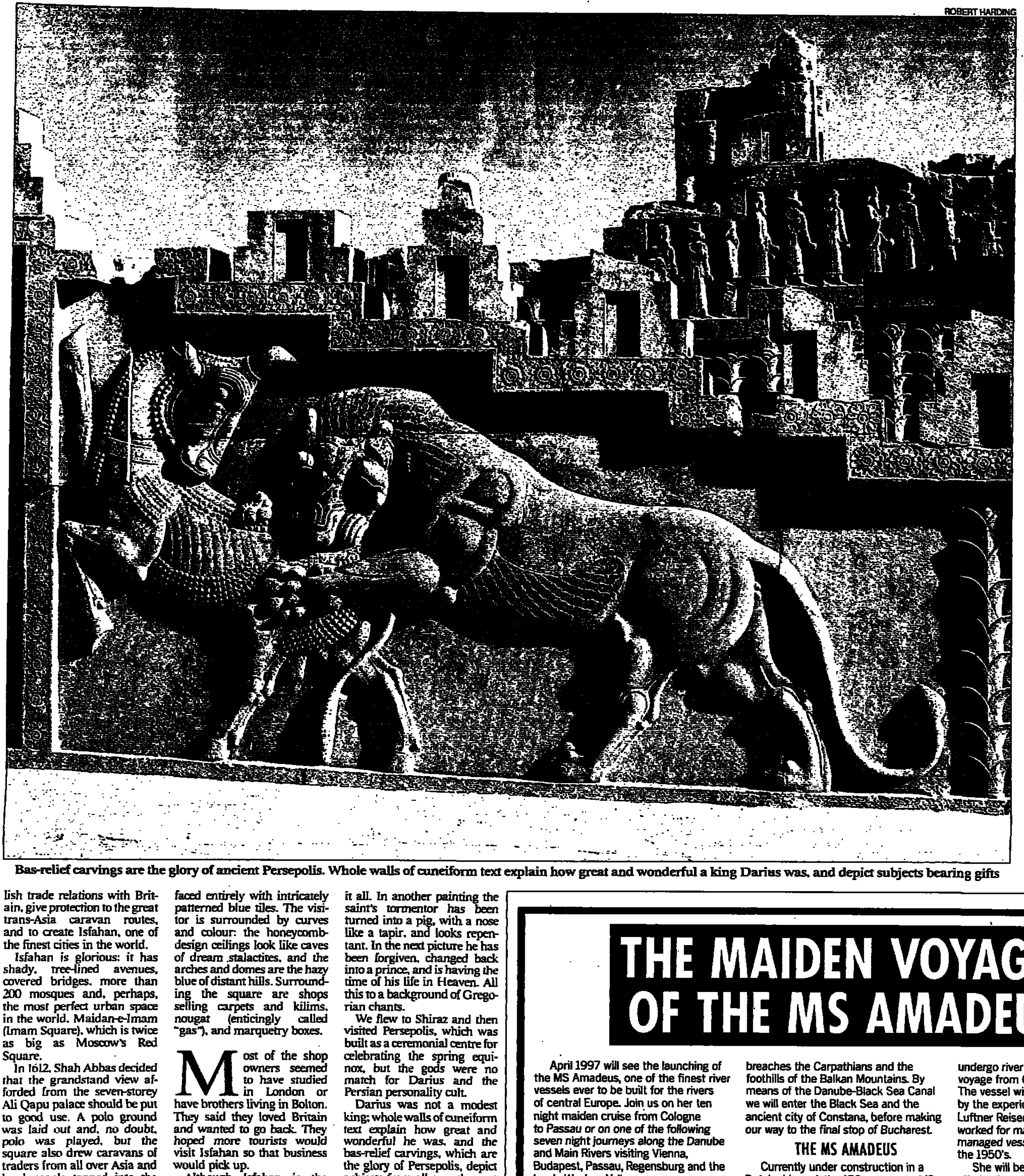
Iran: Away from the drab capital, the land is a Persian carpet of turquoise and gold, domes and surprises

From Darius to the ayatollahs




ROBERT HARDING

Bas-relief carvings are the glory of ancient Persepolis. Whole walls of cuneiform text explain how great and wonderful a king Darius was, and depict subjects bearing gifts

Friends looked startled when I said I was just back from a visit to Iran. They thought I was either brave, especially for a woman, or a bit eccentric. After a day in Tehran other visitors might think the same.

The capital is mostly grey and characterless, dominated by slab-like buildings and backed by slab-like mountains. You can ride up to the snowline in a cable car and eat kebabs in a cold, windowless restaurant, brightened only by a frame of coloured lights around the giant portrait of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Reminders that this is the Islamic Republic of Iran are everywhere. Our tour bus had a sign on the roof reading "God remember", and God's representatives made sure that women remembered the *hijab*, Islamic dress code.

The Homa hotel chain welcomes its visitors from the West with a sign above the main door in huge and permanent-looking brass letters, "Down with USA". This official hostility is totally at odds, however, with the welcome extended to foreigners by the people of Iran. They smiled, talked to us and lined up to be photographed with us.

The bus took us south with our guide, Mr Sassan, who was uncontrollable in his generosity. The mere thought of pistachio nuts and a bag of them would drop into our laps; glance out of the window and the bus would screech to a halt for a photo stop; peep at the guidebook and a whole library of informative literature would be handed to us.

Mr Sassan moved from seat to seat, gazing caringly into our faces, trying to fathom our needs. Referring to himself always in the third person he was omnipotent. "Mr Sassan will take care of it himself; just ask Mr Sassan."

For 3,000 years the former Persia has produced extraordinary men whose mark on history is gloriously and disturbingly evident in modern Iran: from the ceremonial centre of Persepolis, built by Darius the Great (548-486 BC), to the reign of the last Shah of Persia ("King of Kings, Light of the Aryans"), and finally to the Islamic revolution of Khomeini.

The Iranians are proud of their country. They feel invincible. They believe that the West, America in particular, is afraid of them, so there are none of the signs of nervousness so visible in politically unstable countries. We saw no road blocks, no youngsters toting machineguns, and no tougher security than you would find in Britain.

One of the great Persian rulers was Shah Abbas I, who reigned from 1587 to 1629. In those 42 years he defeated the Uzbeks and Turks, regaining a lost slice of empire, and drove out the Portuguese, who were causing trouble on the Gulf. Sympathetic to any nation with reason to hate the Turks, he invited the Armenians to take refuge in Iran (and would they mind bringing with them some useful technology?).

The shah went on to establish trade relations with Britain, give protection to the great trans-Asia caravan routes, and to create Isfahan, one of the finest cities in the world.

Isfahan is glorious: it has shady, tree-lined avenues, covered bridges, more than 200 mosques and, perhaps, the most perfect urban space in the world, Maidan-e-Imam (Imam Square), which is twice as big as Moscow's Red Square.

In 1612, Shah Abbas decided that the grandstand view afforded from the seven-storey Ali Qapu palace should be put to good use. A polo ground was laid out and, no doubt, polo was played, but the square also drew caravans of traders from all over Asia and local people tapped into the wealth of the visitors. According to a contemporary writer there were jugglers, puppet theatres, verse and prose storytellers, thimble-riggers (whatever they are), preachers and tents full of prostitutes.

We visited the square in the early afternoon when there was hardly anybody around, apart from a group of giggling schoolgirls, who joined us to gaze out from the second floor of Ali Qapu palace. The blue and gold domes of two mosques gleamed in the sun, reversing themselves in the ornamental pools that divide up the square.

The shah's private mosque, the Sheikh Lutfollah, faces the palace, but the crowning glory of the square is the Imam Mosque. It is entered through a soaring outer portal, 30 metres (about 100ft) high, and faced entirely with intricately patterned blue tiles. The visitor is surrounded by curves and colour: the honeycomb-design ceilings look like caves of dream stalactites, and the arches and domes are the hazy blue of distant hills. Surrounding the square are shops selling carpets and kilims, nougat (enticingly called "gas"), and marquetry boxes.

Most of the shop owners seemed to have studied in London or have brothers living in Bolton. They said they loved Britain and wanted to go back. They hoped more tourists would visit Isfahan so that business would pick up.

Although Isfahan is the centre of Islamic architecture it has one of the most fascinating Christian churches in the Middle East. Built by a Muslim architect, the Armenian cathedral looks like a mosque with a tiny cross on top, but is wonderfully different inside. You forget how much you miss figurative painting in Iran (Islam forbids the representation of humans or animals).

In the cathedral dedicated to St Gregor, the walls and ceilings are covered with excitingly horrible paintings. There is a *Last Judgment* reminiscent of Hieronymus Bosch, and two walls of sequential paintings depicting, most graphically, the tortures suffered by St Gregor. It would be stomach-turning were it not that the saint, with his Brasso-bright halo, looks only mildly inconvenienced by it all. In another painting the saint's tormentor has been turned into a pig, with a nose like a tapir, and looks repentant. In the next picture he has been forgiven, changed back into a prince, and is having the time of his life in Heaven. All this to a background of Gregorian chants.

We flew to Shiraz and then visited Persepolis, which was built as a ceremonial centre for celebrating the spring equinox, but the gods were no match for Darius and the Persian personality cult.

Darius was not a modest king; whole walls of cuneiform text explain how great and wonderful he was, and the bas-relief carvings, which are the glory of Persepolis, depict subjects from all over the vast empire bearing gifts that are typical of their country. You can identify Armenians, Bactrians, Ethiopians, Egyptians, Ionians, Indians, and a host of others with names from childhood history books. Then the most famous name from ancient history, Alexander the Great, came and destroyed it. But what remains after more than 2,000 years is still awe-inspiring.

What surprised me most about Iran? The people: you brace yourself for hostility but find warmth and friendliness. And the beauty: you expect Iran but find yourself in Persia, a land of turquoise and gold, domes and minarets, nomads and mountains.

HILARY BRADT

● *The author was a guest of Magic Carpet Travel.*

HOW TO GET TO IRAN AND WHERE TO STAY

■ Magic Carpet Travel (0171-385 9975) offers a variety of tours, starting from £765 for eight days; from £1,065 for two weeks in three-star hotels; and £1,565 in five-star hotels. Prices include all transfers, internal flights, the services of a guide, and full-board accommodation, but do not include flights from Britain, which can be arranged at an extra cost.

■ Direct flights: British Airways (0345 222111); Iran Air (0171-409 0971); Air France (0181-742 6600), via Paris; Austrian Airlines (0171-434 7300) via Vienna. Prices from £399 to £540.

■ Other tour operators include Classic Tours (0171-613 4441), British Museum Traveller (0171-323 8895), Steppes East (01285 810267), and Jasmin (01628 531121).

■ Visas cost £33 and are not readily issued for independent travel (though Magic Carpet Travel often makes visa applications on behalf of independent travellers). Apply to the Iranian Consulate, 50 Kensington Court, London W8 5DB (0171-937 5225). Women must supply

■ In Iran, women must cover their hair in public, and show no flesh. Long, loose trousers and a long-sleeved shirt are allowed, but the authorities prefer a *rupush* (long, cotton coat). Some tour companies provide these or they may be bought inexpensively in Iran.

■ International hotel chains in the main tourist centres are of a high standard. Restaurant food is monotonous: kebabs and rice. With persistence, more tasty dishes can be found. Non-alcoholic beer is popular and drinkable.

■ The official language is Farsi, but English is widely spoken.

■ The unit of currency is the riyal. Travellers cheques or cash (sterling or American dollars) can be changed at hotels. Credit cards are rarely accepted.

■ The best months to visit Iran are Mar-May, and Sept-Nov. Summers are very hot, and intolerable for women visitors who must observe the *hijab*. Winters are cold.

■ Books: *Iran: A Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely

TRAVEL DIRECTORY

BOLOGNA
An ancient city that's the flesh-and-blood of modern Italy
PAGE 18

SAILING
Adventure aboard a square-rigger in the South Seas
PAGE 20

FRANCE
Mont St Michel and the prettiest kilometre walk in France
PAGE 23

TRAVEL TIPS, PAGE 23

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In addition, the recent re-opening of the Danube to passenger traffic through Belgrade will allow us to return to the Balkans on a voyage from Vienna to Danube Delta in the Black Sea. This is one of the greatest river journeys in Europe. In just ten days we will experience the delights of culturally rich Vienna, Budapest and Belgrade, with the stunning natural sights of the Danube. We will pass through the 'Iron Gates' where the river breaches the Carpathians and the foothills of the Balkan Mountains. By means of the Danube-Black Sea Canal we will enter the Black Sea and the ancient city of Constana, before making our way to the final stop of Bucharest.

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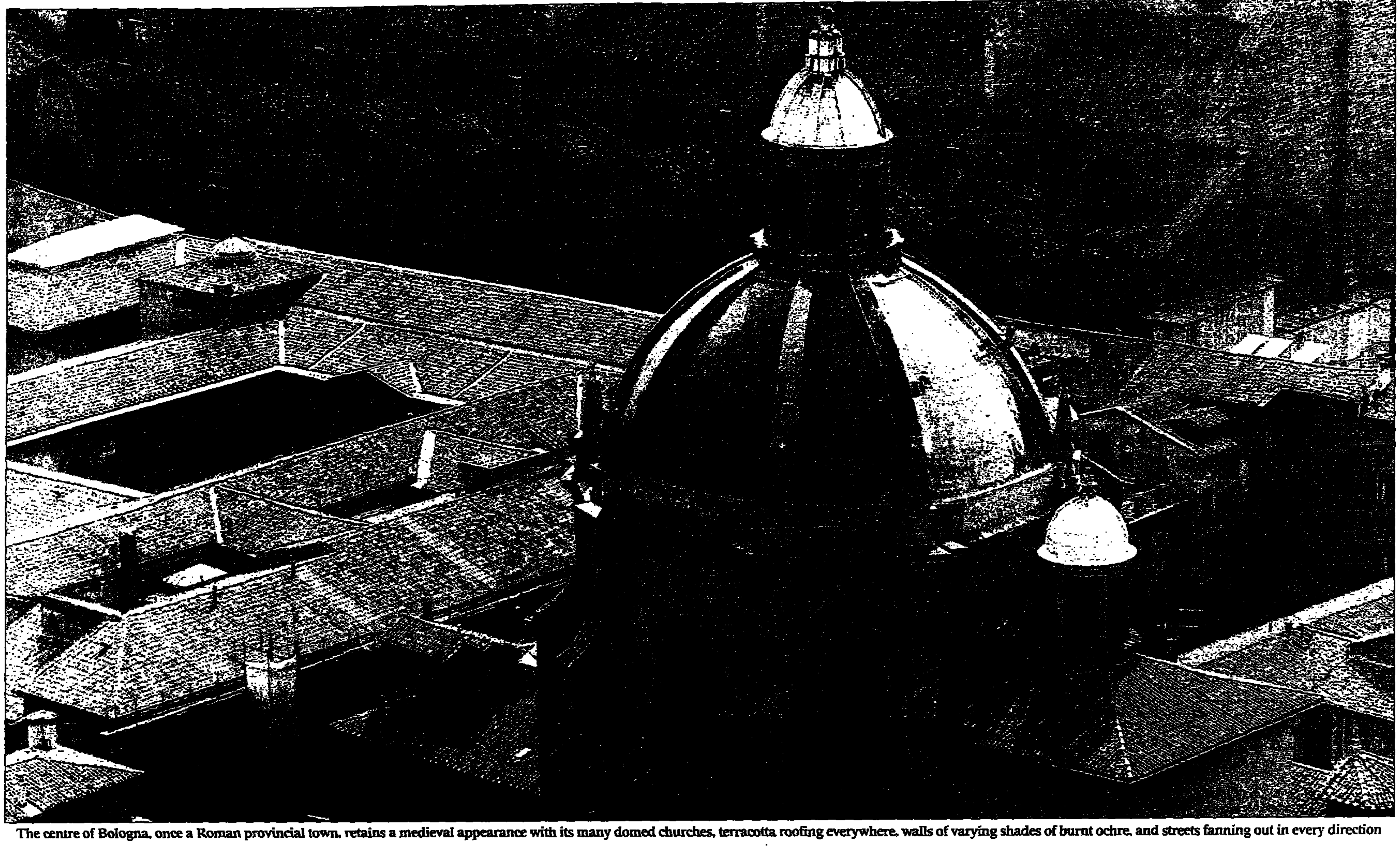
Bologna: An ancient and cultured town that's also flesh-and-blood modern Italy, not just a tourist tableau

SPECTRUM



The centre of Bologna, once a Roman provincial town, retains a medieval appearance with its many domed churches, terracotta roofing everywhere, walls of varying shades of burnt ochre, and streets fanning out in every direction

Where the touro-dollar is small change

It was the sight of the student couple having a hungry snog in the second row to the back while I attempted to interest the hall with a lecture on the effects of idealism on British popular culture since the Second World War that clinched it for me.

This was not the Italy of sightseeing delight — heritaged, restored, and air-conditioned coach-toured. Bologna, with its necking teenagers seeking somewhere out of the cold on a Saturday afternoon (presumably because they couldn't snog at home; half the 60,000 students of Bologna University live with their parents) is the real, flesh-and-blood *modern* Italy, not a tourist tableau.

Not that Bologna isn't old and well preserved. Once a Roman provincial town, virtually the entire centre of the city retains a medieval appearance, with its streets fanning out, terracotta roofing everywhere, and walls of varying shades of burnt ochre. So yes, it's beautiful. But, then again, the main piazzas and palaces apart, just a bit rundown.

You won't find so many tourists in Bologna, not even in August, a Bolognese friend told me, perversely proud that at least *his* city had not tarted herself up to ensnare the touro-dollar. Every summer the tourists race past on the autostrada to Florence 50 miles away, bypassing unknowingly some of the most interesting urban development in Italy.

And in the overcast dead of winter, with the streets misty, I began to suspect I might well be the only tourist out to enjoy this unaffected affluent city of Emilia-Romagna.

Admittedly it was disappointing not to find a restaurant serving *spaghetti bolognese*, for so long my most ambitious step into culinary exotica (apparently *tortelloni burro e pomodora* is much more the typical Bolognese pasta dish, anyway), and the murk completely hid what I was assured are pretty, villa-littered Apennine hills to the south of the old town.

But this was a small price to pay for the opportunity to see modern Italy living with, and making contemporary use of, ancient Italy, unashamed of crumbling plaster, disintegrating columns and haphazard street pavings. The residents of Bologna do not live in a museum.

Of course there are the usual basilicas and galleries, stuffed to the crust in celebration of Bologna's artistic and spiritual past (Amico Aspertini's *Holy Cross* in the Basilica di St Petronio, El Greco's *Last Supper* in the Pinacoteca Nazionale, and Uccello's *Christ's Nativity* in the Basilica di St Martino), but then, it was ruled by the Vatican for 350 years until the unification of Italy in the last century.

What I find more interesting is the display of a temporal kind of faith, which so much of Bologna suggests. Here is the oldest university in Europe, founded about 1200 AD (and probably not much redecorated since) where anatomy was taught to Dante and Petrarch; here are the remains of 40 great towers, originally built for military signalling in defence, and only later for show; and here, too, is the greatest number of arcaded pavements anywhere in the world.

The arcades are the *look* of Bologna. They are everywhere, and in so many styles; no street too humble for its own colonnades, from the low wooden structures of the middle ages which hang over the Palazzo Grassi, to the ecclesiastically elegant cloisters outside the church of St Giacomo Maggiore and on to the lofty, portentous 19th-century portico in front of the Bank of Italy in Via Farini.

Nor are the columns supporting the arcades necessarily consistent. In some of the busiest streets when one has fallen or been knocked down it has been replaced by another in a different stone, a testament itself to the practical nature of this city's people.

The romantic story in Bologna, which is also famous for having the only continuous left-wing council since 1945 — the former controlling Communist party now calls itself the PDS, the party of the Democratic Left and is one half of a coalition — is that the first arcades were built in the spirit of an early co-operative movement.

According to local legend there was a famine in the countryside and the country people flocked to the city, where, unable to house them all, the local townspeople hit on the idea of covering the pavements so that the homeless would have some shelter.

To me that sounds a bit like a public relations rationalisation for the homeless sleeping under the arches at Charing Cross in London ("Why don't we build a railway, folks, and give the vagrants a place to sleep"), and I can't help but be more easily drawn to the functional notion that the arcades were there to provide shelter from the sun in the blistering summers.

But, no doubt, and appropriately enough in this city of the people, everyone benefited, not least the modern visitor. Now there are 24 miles of arcades covering Bologna's pavements and, save for crossing roads, it is possible to walk for five miles from the centre of Bologna to the Sanctuary of St Luke's Madonna on the Della Guardia hill overlooking the town without getting either frazzled or soaked. Of course, in mid-winter you still get frozen.

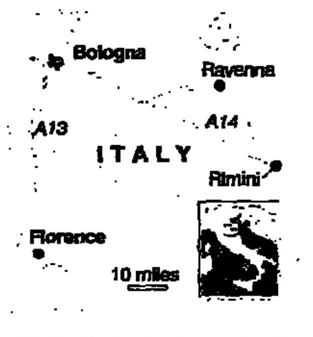
For those pursuing more earnest cultural tastes, there is a permanent museum for the Bologna artist Morandi in the Piazza Maggiore, while opera at the Teatro Comunale is reckoned to be second only to Milan's La Scala. But most of all, Bologna is a city of students and inevitably where there are young people it is the cinema that is the paramount art form, encouraged by the city-backed Cineteca Film Archive, whose showplace, the Cinema Lumière, is on Via Pietralata.

While largely devoted to restoring old movies (there is a silent-film festival every June) the archive has more than 9,000 rare prints, including classic Russian and Soviet films assembled since the turn of the century. A three-week season of Russian films starts next Friday.

For how long Bologna will continue to be largely overlooked by tourists is difficult to predict. Restoration projects are in operation all round the town, and the municipal planners, no doubt, have more than an eye on the income to be generated by their past.

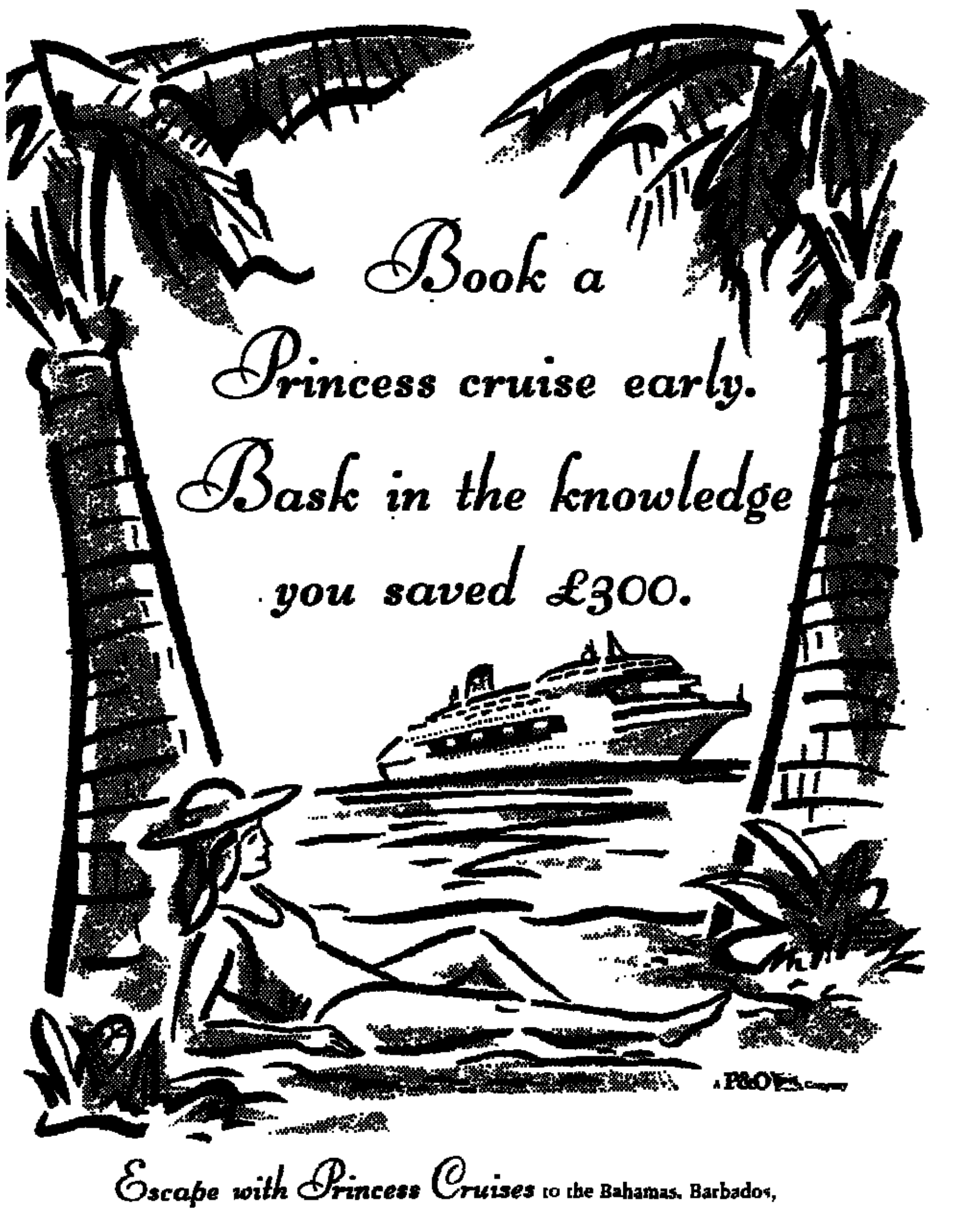
But as their neighbours in Florence have discovered, nothing comes without cost. Perhaps Bologna has got the balance between the needs of the citizens and those of the tourists just about right.

RAY CONNOLLY



FACT FILE

- British Airways (0345 222111) and Alitalia (0171-602 7111) fly direct to Bologna from Heathrow and Gatwick from £239 midweek starting on Oct 1.
- There are many good hotels to suit most budgets. The author stayed on the edge of the old part of Bologna at Best Western's Hotel Re Enzo, Via S. Croce 26, 40122, Bologna (051 52 33 22, fax 051 55 40 35). The rate is about £75 a night for a double room with breakfast, reducing to about £50 (minimum two nights) on certain weekends in the year.
- Italian Escapades (0181-748 2661) offers three-night breaks in Bologna from £275, including flights, transfers and B&B at the three-star Hotel Alexandra, about 30 minutes from the city centre.
- The current exchange rate is L2,400 to the £1.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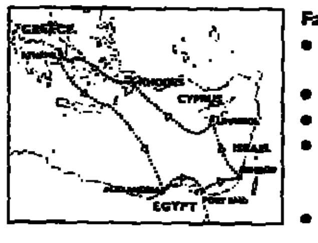

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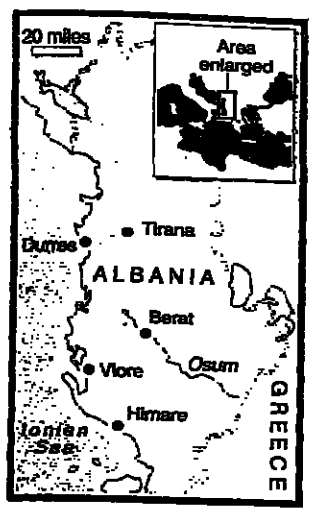
Albania and Slovenia: Stuck in a time-warp but catching up with the 20th century; lakes and living well

Unspoilt by progress – so far



The temptation in Albania is to think small. The country is the size of Ulster and Wales combined, the population half that of London, and Tirana, the capital, is not as big as Taunton. The airport terminal is no larger than a provincial bus station and the tallest building in the land is 15 storeys high: the minarets of mosques reach halfway up.

There is one section of dual carriageway six kilometres long, the railway system is minuscule and the two seaports make Ramsgate look like Rotterdam. Donkeys, mules and pony traps outnumber bicycles. The country might be in a time-warp, with the second half of the 20th century yet to happen.

In a sense, this is true. For 46 years, Albania was an isolated society struggling under the most repressive of regimes. Its Communist leader, Enver Hoxha, transformed it into an Orwellian militarist state, airbrushed the past out of existence and alerted every citizen to the impending Western-inspired invasion.

Of the 10,000 motor vehicles on the road, 95 per cent were military: it was illegal to own a car. All religions were proscribed. However, Hoxha died in 1985, his wife is behind bars and his successor recently released from house arrest. A new era is dawning.

What Albania (more correctly Shqipëria) lacks in modernity, it makes up for in history. For three millennia, it has been methodically overrun. Originally the legendary kingdom of Illyria, it has been marched over by Greeks, Romans, Goths, Huns, Byzantines, Bulgars, Normans, Serbs, Venetians, Turks, Italians and, finally, Marxists. The consequences are a bewitching cultural hotchpotch.

The language is musical but impenetrable and semantically unique. Squat Ottoman houses rub eaves with Italian fascist buildings and socialist concrete cubes. Renovated mosques co-exist beside rejuvenated Greek Orthodox churches. Citadels occupy mountain summits, the Roman *Via Egnatia* cuts through *en route* for the old Constantinople, rural villages look like sets for a medieval drama, and Illyrian and Greek ruins lurk in the countryside. After five decades of being denied their history, the Albanians are discovering it. Ylli, my taxi driver, asked me if I knew of a mosaic at Arapaj, thought to be the remains of the Norman church of St Michael, built in 1081. He had stumbled on it the day before and marvelled over the fact.

To travel through Albania is to experience the last of unspoilt Europe. The rivers are as clear as green glass and so clean you can swim in many of them. Roadside springs provide ice-cold drinking water. The roads are narrow and leave much to be desired, with potholes so large they should have names, but the landscape is exquisite. Ancient stone villages nestle in olive groves and cornfields, blizzarded by butterflies and framed by backdrops of forests inhabited by bears and mountains roamed by wolves.

Albania has vistas to rival all but the high Swiss Alps. The coast is as spectacular as it is untrammelled. South of Vlora, Albania's second seaport, the only road traverses the Llogora Pass where the Çika mountains plunge for 3,000ft into the Ionian Sea. The long, pristine beaches, approachable only by tracks from the road, are deserted.

In 50 miles of shore, there are only 12 villages and one picturesque small town, Himara, which Philip of Macedonia attacked in 214 BC, where Julius Caesar was nearly shipwrecked and the infamous Ali Pasha Tepelena, an acquaintance of Byron, slaughtered 6,000 townsfolk in 1797. If Albania had tourist brochures, this would be called the *Bregdeti Hlsiorikë* — the History Coast. The towns can be as beautiful as the landscape. Berat, 70 miles from Tirana, nestles on the banks of the Osum river, below a substantial citadel. High on a ridge, it contains occupied homes which were old when Sultan Murad I invaded in 1385, and a cannon donated by Lord Nelson. Here, too, is a museum dedicated to the work of Onufri, the most famous of all medieval icon painters. Below the citadel, clinging to the precipitous rock above the river, all the buildings are Ottoman, the modern suburb neither dwarfing nor stifling them. Bars, cafés and restaurants line the river, serving Turkish coffee, whole sheep roasted over a spit, local beer, wine and *raki*, the Albanian version of the traditional Balkan schnapps-like tipple which here one is expected to sip, not down in one breath-rasping gulp.

Just as delightful are the Albanians. Foreigners are not regarded simply as tourists to be tolerated for their wallets nor envied for their wrist-watches. They are considered more as travellers were a century ago, to be welcomed and questioned, not mugged or ripped off. Conversation is not difficult: someone will speak English, a good number speak Italian and everyone wants to talk.

Indicative of Albanian hospitality was the treatment my son and I received in the Ethem Bey mosque in Tirana, one of the most important in the nation. The *imam* himself instructed us to keep our shoes on: the prayer carpets were rolled back to allow us guided access, not only to the mosque, but the women's gallery and the minaret. This was not done to gain a donation, but because we had shown interest in his holy establishment. Times are changing, however. There are now 300,000 vehicles on Albanian roads, a significant number of them stolen from all over Europe and smuggled in by the mafia: a former Royal Mail van delivers vegetables in Tirana. Designer jeans are arriving from Italy, counterfeit cigarettes from Macedonia and Coca-Cola from America.

In Berat, recently designated a World Heritage City, there is hardly a building without a satellite dish, and a 15ft-high Coca-Cola bottle stands alongside the minaret of the early 19th-century Mosque of the Bachelors.

Albania is in a state of flux and needs discovering before it is too late. The Albanians have noted what happened to the Spanish costas and are determined not to destroy their heritage. However, they may yet be corrupted by the glint of tourist gold. The word is to get to this fabulous feast as quickly as possible in case all that remains are crumbs.

Martin Booth

● *The author was a guest of Swissair and the Hotel Europapark.*

TONY STONE

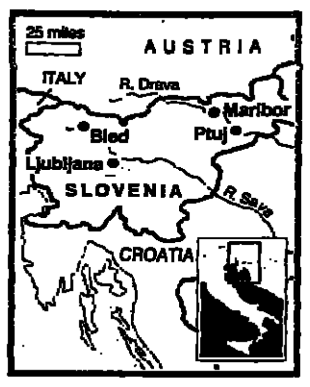
The Ethem Bey mosque in Tirana's Skenderbeg Square is one of the most important in Albania but religion was proscribed under Hoxha

Traditional costume

ALBANIA FACT FILE

- Swissair (0171-439 4144) offers flights to Albania via Zurich for £839 return, but promotional fares are available; with Alitalia (0171-602 7111) via Rome, £839 return; with Lufthansa (0345 737747) via Frankfurt, £862 return. A taxi ride from Rinas airport, 15 miles from Tirana, costs about £15-£20 (no airport buses). Overland, by car-ferry from Bari or Brindisi in Italy to Durrës: a diesel 4x4 vehicle is best because unleaded petrol is scarce and roads can be rough.
- In Tirana, Hotel Europapark (355 42 35035), of international 5-star standard, charges about £125 a night for a double room (£98 single), including a substantial *smorgasbord*-type breakfast and all taxes. Other hotels are the Tirana International (42 34185) and the Dajti (42 27662) the old Communist hotel, if you want to imagine George Smiley or Graham Greene walking down the corridor: tariffs slightly lower. Elsewhere in Albania, local hotels are available at a wide range of standards and prices. Eating out is cheap and good, restaurants and bars are numerous.
- Public transport is chaotic, as is driving. Hire a car with a driver. Cost depends on distance. A Mercedes and driver costs £70 for a full day for a journey of up to 200 miles. Negotiate the price before hiring. All drivers are courteous, very obliging and likely to show you unknown sights at no extra cost.
- US dollars are accepted everywhere: sterling is roundly rejected. The local currency is the lek. Change money in Tirana from street money vendors. They are technically illegal, but allowed, and their rate is up to 15 per cent better than the official changers. Take and demand only pristine bills. Credit cards are unknown outside the hotels mentioned above.
- Albania is best visited between late March and June when the land is a carpet of wild flowers and from late September to mid-November.
- Recommended reading. *The Blue Guide* (A.C. Black, £12.99) is comprehensive but contains some glaring errors; *Albania* by Dawson & White (Bradt, £10.95) gives a good feel for the country. Maps available from bookstalls in Tirana.

Slavs to the good life



Dogs of war barked briefly in Slovenia, for ten days or so back in June 1991 when it broke away from Yugoslavia. Since then, this small Alpine nation, tucked between Austria, Italy and Croatia, with its engaging baroque towns and Hapsburg cities, placid lakes and soaring mountains, has quietly and steadily raced ahead of its former Yugoslav neighbours.

Suggest to a Slovene that Slovenia is part of the Balkans and he will recoil in horror, and perhaps rightly, for independent Slovenia is an economic success story. Slovenes have a per capita income of over £6,000 per head, the highest of all Europe's former Communist states.

This colourful new tile in Europe's ethnic mosaic may once have shared a government and currency with Serbia, Bosnia and Macedonia, but federation with Austria would have made more sense. German is the second language here and you are as likely to spot a loden-coat-wearing businessman in the capital Ljubljana as in Linz in neighbouring Austria.

The language, Slovene, is southern Slavic, but the Slovene mentality is more Germanic than Slavic, which is not surprising as Slovenia was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire, ruled from Vienna. The only sign that Slovenia was part of eastern Europe's communist empire is the truculent policemen (visitors should carry passports at all times) and the box-like architecture that can mar beauty spots such as Lake Bled.

Slovenia's tourist industry is recovering from the war down the road, although even at the height of the fighting in Bosnia a visit to Slovenia was no more risky than to neighbouring Hungary. Even so, a glance at a map was enough to put off potential visitors but now Slovenes hope that as peace replaces strife in the former Yugoslav war zone, and the region stabilises, the tourists will return en masse.

They would be right to do so. From the beauty of Lake Bled, surrounded by tree-lined slopes and overlooked by a castle, to the bustle of the lively capital Ljubljana, with its bars and cafés, and small towns such as Ptuj, Slovenia is an enjoyable cocktail of architecture, culture, history, scenery and excellent white wines, in my view the best in the region.

Ljubljana, perched on the river Ljubljanica, is the best place to take the pulse of one of Europe's newest states. Take a walk around the old town, by the river, where baroque architecture retains the flavour of the city in its Hapsburg glory days. Energetic visitors should trek up to the castle, that once defended Ljubljana, for a beautiful view of this mini-metropolis. As well as attractive architecture, Ljubljana has the liveliest nightlife in the former Yugoslavia, apart from Belgrade. Spiced with Italian influences in clothes and coffee, Ljubljana is a heady brew of buzzing bars and cafés, especially around Presernov Trg (square).

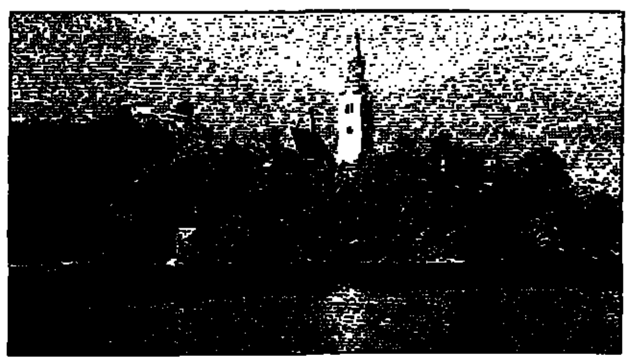
Wind down from Ljubljana at Lake Bled, one of Europe's most scenic beauty spots. Tucked away in the ages-old embrace of the surrounding mountains, overlooked by a castle as romantic as anything Disney could conjure up. Lake Bled is restful and romantic, a place to cement a new romance or revitalise an old one.

In the tourist season, when the lake thaws from the winter freeze, there are rowing boats for hire, as well as bicycles and canoes. Pack a picnic and row out to the middle of the lake to Bled Island, and visit the aptly-named Church of Our Lady of the Lake. Otherwise the best way to enjoy Bled is to walk along its shores, or up the steep paths that cut through the woods up to the castle. That itself is unremarkable, but the view is one of Europe's finest and the restaurant terrace is a good spot for lunch.

Accommodation at Lake Bled is reasonably priced. Double rooms with a balcony over the lake (ask for a room with a view), are about £45. Slovenia's second city, Maribor, lacks both the charm and nightlife of Ljubljana. Head instead for the charming town of Ptuj, overlooking the river Drava. Ptuj is rich in baroque and medieval architecture and has its own castle, with an engaging museum packed with paintings of stern Ottoman dignitaries and an amusing collection of ramshackle Austrian musical instruments. Like Slovenia, it's a cocktail of central Europe's eclectic history.

Adam LeBor

● *Adria Airways (0171-734 4630) has return flights to Ljubljana from Heathrow from £241. Slovenia Pursuits (01763 852646) offers a week B&B in a hotel at Lake Bled from £350, or a week in Ljubljana from £375, with flights from Heathrow. Further information from the Slovenian Tourist Office, 0171-372 3767.*



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Sailing: Learning the hard way on a voyage through the South Seas islands aboard the tall ship *Soren Larsen*

Before the mast in a gale-whipped sea

WE SAW the ominous mass approaching across the sea and raced to reef down the sails and secure the ropes that littered the decks. As the squawl hit, the ship turned into a writhing monster, slapping relentlessly into the swell and shuddering along her full length. My stomach lurched with the vessel, but the exhilaration of fighting against the deluge blocked all other sensations.

A voyage on the *Soren Larsen* is a far cry from luxury cruises spent reclining in the sun. Brute force and teamwork are required. It is a sensational experience. The brigantine is one of the last of the elegant breed of tall ships that plough the seas as ghosts from a bygone age, the creaking of the wooden panels and flexing of beams her continual complaint.

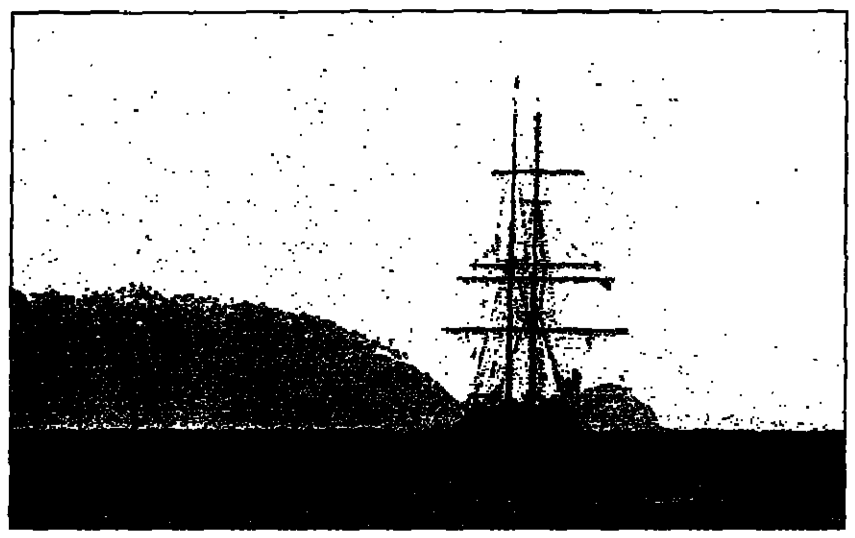
The ship, which became famous in the BBC series *The Onedin Line*, now hosts trips among the South Pacific islands, hopping between the tropical playgrounds of Tahiti, Tonga, Western Samoa, the Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and New Caledonia.

When the gales subsided we retreated into the galley and munched fresh ginger cake, backed by the rousing theme from *The Onedin Line*. That night, blessed with a full moon, we watched pairs of dolphins leaping before the bow. Spectacular explosions of phosphorescence pulsated like neon rain alongside the ship and were swallowed in its wake. At 3am two crew members were dispatched to bake the next day's bread.

Our multinational crew gathered in the outer reaches of the Kingdom of Tonga to explore the world's most exotic seas aboard the classic vessel. We included a Scottish shopkeeper, Kiwi sheep farmers and a Second World War veteran, our ages stretching between 23 and 74. The passage covered 491 nautical miles between the Vava'u islands, to the north of Tonga, across to Western Samoa.

When we boarded the ship at the ramshackle port of Neiafu in central Vava'u, her owner, Captain Tony Davies, promised us "an experience". Even he had little idea that this would include force seven gales, torrential rain and a run in with a barracuda. Yet the romance of 19th-century seafaring in the spirit of Captain Cook surpassed everything — especially when the sun broke through and the temperature soared to 34C.

The ship bears the name of the Danish builders who constructed her entirely of oak in the 1940s. She is 145ft long and was refitted with two 98ft masts and 12 sails encompassing 6,750sq ft of canvas. At full sail she is a magnificent sight. The ship accommodates up to 23 guests and 12 crew in compact cabins with bunk beds and basins. There are three freshwater showers and marine lavatories. A cook ensures hearty meals, served at elm tables in the saloon or out on the main deck. We never saw hard biscuits and there was an amply stocked bar for when the sun dipped below the yardarm. Paying guests, or "voyage crew", are encouraged to help run the ship, doing everything from hauling the vast sails to swabbing the decks and peeling potatoes. No previous sailing experience is necessary.


The *Soren Larsen*, her twin 98ft masts bared, at anchor in a South Seas bay

I have tinkered about on boats from an early age but had little advantage over beginners when it came to sailing the square-rigger. There are no winches or cleats on board. Tacking is a big operation which involves bringing round the headsails, bracing the top sails and hauling across the mainsail to shouts of "two six heave". We slowly mastered our positions at the braces and learnt how to "lay back" on the main sheet to prevent it whipping out over the side. Correctly identifying the plethora of ropes or sheets proved beyond us all.

After 11 days of hauling on sheets and climbing the rigging — which almost everyone shinned up eventually — my hands toughened, unconfined toes began to spread, and I discovered muscles I hadn't known I possessed.

The challenge of overcoming personal fears profoundly affected passengers. With help from the crew, John, a marvellous English rogue in his seventies, shinned 50ft up the rigging and waved at us from the crow's-nest. In mid-voyage his wife, Jean, donned a lifejacket to overcome childhood aquaphobia and went swimming for the first time ever. The gardens of fan coral and electric blue reef fish reduced her to tears.

Sailing was interspersed with island stops to explore the stunning outer reaches of the Pacific. On Nuapapu island the more proficient swimmers dived several metres to the entrance of Mariners Cave. We were rewarded with a surreal journey through eerily glowing water and into a cavernous hollow crowned with stalactites.

Tall ship life is addictive for many. The young Australian purser traded in a city career to keep the voyage accounts, clean lavatories and change bedsheets. She declared herself never happier.

The crew, a bronzed and brawny international band, shared a genuine attachment to the ship and pride in its maintenance. They arranged a pirate party, sea shanty sessions, windsurfing and snorkling sorties out to the reefs. When the proximity of life at sea got too much they spent time-out perched in the rigging or swinging whooping out to sea on a rope attached to the yardarm.

The wide-eyed reaction of many islanders to the tall ship drove home the rarity of our experience. On Kapa, in the Vava'u group, a young girl welcomed us into her village, overrun with pigs and chickens, and stared at the ship in amazement. "Big ship," she whispered. "Beeauutiful."

We were roused from a postlunch stupour when a shark was spotted tracking the ship. Gilles, the ship's French engineer and angler, had snagged a temptingly large tuna. The next day we feasted on fresh fish washed down with fruity New Zealand wine.

DURING the three-day crossing between nations we fully entered the rhythm of the ship's life. We were divided into twice-daily four-hour watches and held responsible for keeping a lookout, manning the helm and updating the log. It took time to find our sea legs, particularly on rough days when the swell topped four metres (about 13ft-14ft). Surprisingly, it was the members of the crew who spent the most time getting intimate with the side rail or "talking to Neptune", as they say. Many of us had downed too many seasickness pills to feel much at all.

Our passage took us over the International Date Line from east to west and we were rewarded with seeing in two Sundays in a row.

The *Soren Larsen* has clocked up more than 150,000 nautical miles in the past decade. Tony Davies found the former Baltic trader in a derelict state in Denmark in the late 1970s. He persuaded the BBC to help refit her as a traditional brigantine for *The Onedin Line* and subsequent work in *The French Lieutenant's Woman* and *Shackleton*.

She later became a Jubilee Sailing Trust vessel for the disabled and flag ship to the bicentennial First Fleet Re-enactment voyage to Australia via the Horn. In 1992 she was class winner in the Gran Regatta Columbus and Tall Ships race across the Atlantic. She is now based in Auckland. The ship's New Zealand company, Square Sail Pacific, reports a 30 per cent return rate of passengers, about 75 per cent of them British.

We reeked of emotion when we parted at the bustling old world port of Apia, where Robert Louis Stevenson is buried. But on our last night there was a spectacular display of sheet lightning over the harbour, lighting up the island like a film set. It seemed a fitting finale to the experience of a lifetime.

MARIANNE DARCH

● *The author was a guest of Explore Worldwide aboard the* Soren Larsen.

Taking the helm is part of training

INFORMATION LOG

■ Voyages aboard the *Soren Larsen* are bookable through Explore Worldwide (01252 319448). The next available voyage in the 19th-century brigantine is the deep-sea passage across the Tasman Sea from Sydney to Auckland, via the Bay of Islands. Departing by air from London on October 18, this will be classic ocean sailing at its best, with a chance to learn the basics of navigation and seamanship.

■ The 17-day voyage costs £2,349, including return flights from London, hotel accommodation in Sydney and Auckland (one night in each), full board during the voyage, and tuition. The voyage alone costs £1,220.

■ From next January to March, a series of eight-day voyages are planned around the coast of New Zealand. In May, the ship sets sail for Tonga and a six-month tour of the South Pacific. Prices start at £477 for an eight-day voyage. Air fares and land accommodation extra.

SIMON GROSSETT FSP

After 11 days, hands toughened from hauling sheets and swabbing decks, almost everyone aboard shinned up the mast

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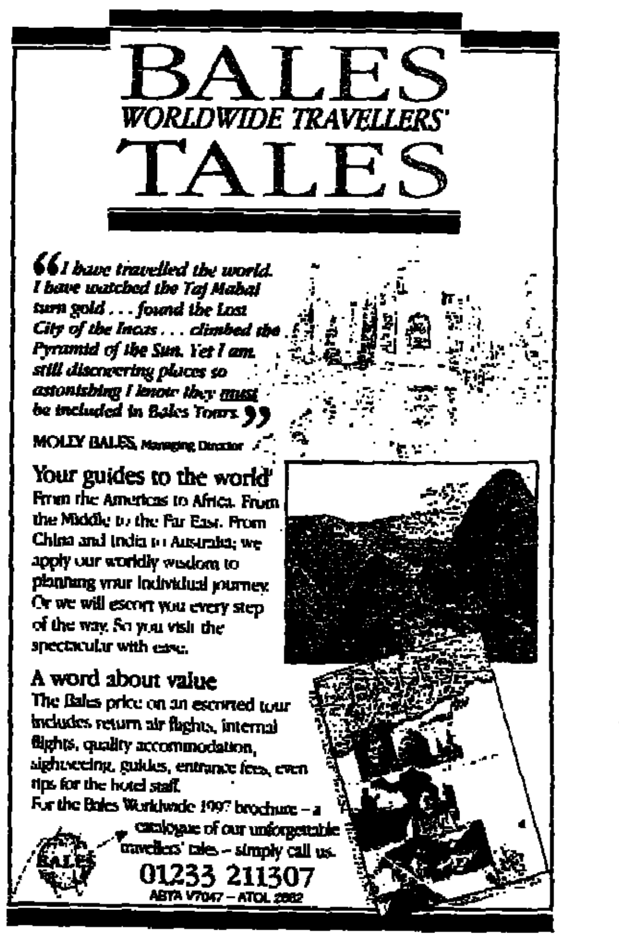
WORD WATCHING

LARRUP
(c) To beat, flog, thrash, hence *larruping*. *Jack the Giant-Killer*, 1833-4: "Drinking success to the hero stout/ Who larruped the Giants out and out."

MORMYRUS
(a) A fish of the African genus *Mormyrus*. An adaptation of the Greek *mormúros* (corruptly *mormúlos*). "The Mormyrus. This is a very singularly marked species. The body oblong; the head elongated."

MORMAOR
(c) In ancient Scotland, a high steward of a province. From the Gaelic *mór* great + *maor* a bailiff or steward. "Macbeth being introduced as a king, by the English Chronicle, before he was even a mormaor."

LARON
A robber. From the Old French *laron*, Latin *latro*, *latronem* a robber. Archbishop Ussher, [dodgy] *Annals*, 1656: "But like a very laron, sought to strip his brother of all that he had in his necessity."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Britain: A couple put themselves in the hands of a health farm; a not-so-healthy break in Hampshire

Healthy and wealthy, but is it wise?

THE WIFE

ON MY first day at Champneys I fell asleep three times before supper. Once after being tucked up post-massage like a baby on a reclining chair in a dark room by a clucking matronly figure. Then during a "relaxation" class, and again after an aromatherapy session.

Champneys is as sure to wind you down as under-heated saunas and over-crowded swimming pools are to wind you up. For a start, the 19th-century former Rothschild home, set in silence and 170 acres of parkland, is only 50 minutes from central London. And once there you don't need to move: beauty treatments, classes (archery, juggling) and lectures (Understanding Victorian Painting) are on site; your bed is never far away and you don't ever need to get out of your Champneys dressing gown.

Four days is the recommended time to profit most, but many people use Champneys, as we did, for a weekend of massages, meals and mental destimulation. Other guests ranged from a hen party to a party of three couples who were making a weekend of it. Other couples were women friends or husbands and wives. Everyone carries a personal Daily Appointment Schedule to ensure that they don't miss the treatments — of which a steam bath, massage and facial are included in the room rate — and classes. The average age of guests is 41, but at a Stretch and Flex class I attended it appeared to be 61. Do not feel you have to enter a frenetic routine in preparation for this health farm: we sat on chairs and rotated our ankles.

DURING the rest of the weekend I surrendered to saunas and melted beneath massages and aromatherapy baths for pregnancy (for my *three-month* condition). However, of all the activities on offer, it was a woodland walk in sun and showers that proved the weekend's highlight. You need it after the hours of hushed respect for the honing and toning of healthy people.

If the routine can appear monochrome, mealtimes add colour. Generous side plates are used for main courses and a restraining calorie count is printed beside each dish but the food is very good: fresh (Champneys has a kitchen garden), well presented and interesting. Breakfast is dominated by fruit, lunch by vegetable salads, and our Saturday dinner, where guests replace their robes with jersey trouser suits or jackets and ties, was broccoli and mint soup (salt and pepper free), fillet of beef with wild mushrooms and polenta, and a cheese platter. You certainly leave Champneys lighter of weight and mood, sparkling eyed and looser-limbed. Whether its health benefits outweigh those gained from a weekend of 12-mile walks is debatable. Also, considering its treatments for pregnant women, I was surprised by the limited availability of proteins such as hard cheese, eggs and milk. However, a weekend here will certainly kickstart you into a healthier lifestyle — you're bound to decide on a yoghurt and fruit breakfast on Monday.

SARAH HARDING

Expensive and self-indulgent, the Champneys' regime is likely to kickstart you into a healthier lifestyle

THE HUSBAND

PAYING to be coated from head to toe in cold, thick Austrian mud, wrapped in rubber sheeting and submerged in a vibrating water trough may sound fetishistic to the uninitiated but, according to the therapists at Champneys, it's one of their most popular new treatments.

It costs £37 and involves several generous dollops of imported organic mud which, according to the guide, releases *tensions* while acting as a diuretic and skin toner. Colette, the charming woman who had the unenviable task of slapping it all on, is no doubt an expert in her field, but, after 45 minutes of lying in a mummified state, the only relief I could admit to was being able to shower it all off afterwards.

If, like me, you have a massage every ten years, and think nothing of washing your hair with a bar of soap when there's no shampoo, Champneys will unnerve you. Preconceptions that health farms are associated with hardship and colonic irrigation fly out of the chintz-curtained windows the moment you glance at the services on offer.

You can warm up with Neuro Linguistic Programming ("a detailed computerised dietary analysis"; 1 hour for £55) and a Body Composition Assessment (the "latest technology to determine your lean body mass and fat percentage"; £20.50) before progressing to Cathiodermie ("complete deep cleansing for all skin types"; 1 hour 25 minutes for £47), and still have time for a sauna before lunch. I decided to break myself in gently with a steam bath and a game of squash.

There were many things I loved about our weekend — the massages, the sauna and plunge baths carefully monitored by the friendly and no-nonsense Gary, the gourmet food, and our elegant bedroom overlooking acres of landscaped gardens. The pool was spotless, the water a perfect temperature. There is also no sense of emasculation. Women barely outnumber men, who can have a manicure before attacking the full-size snooker table.

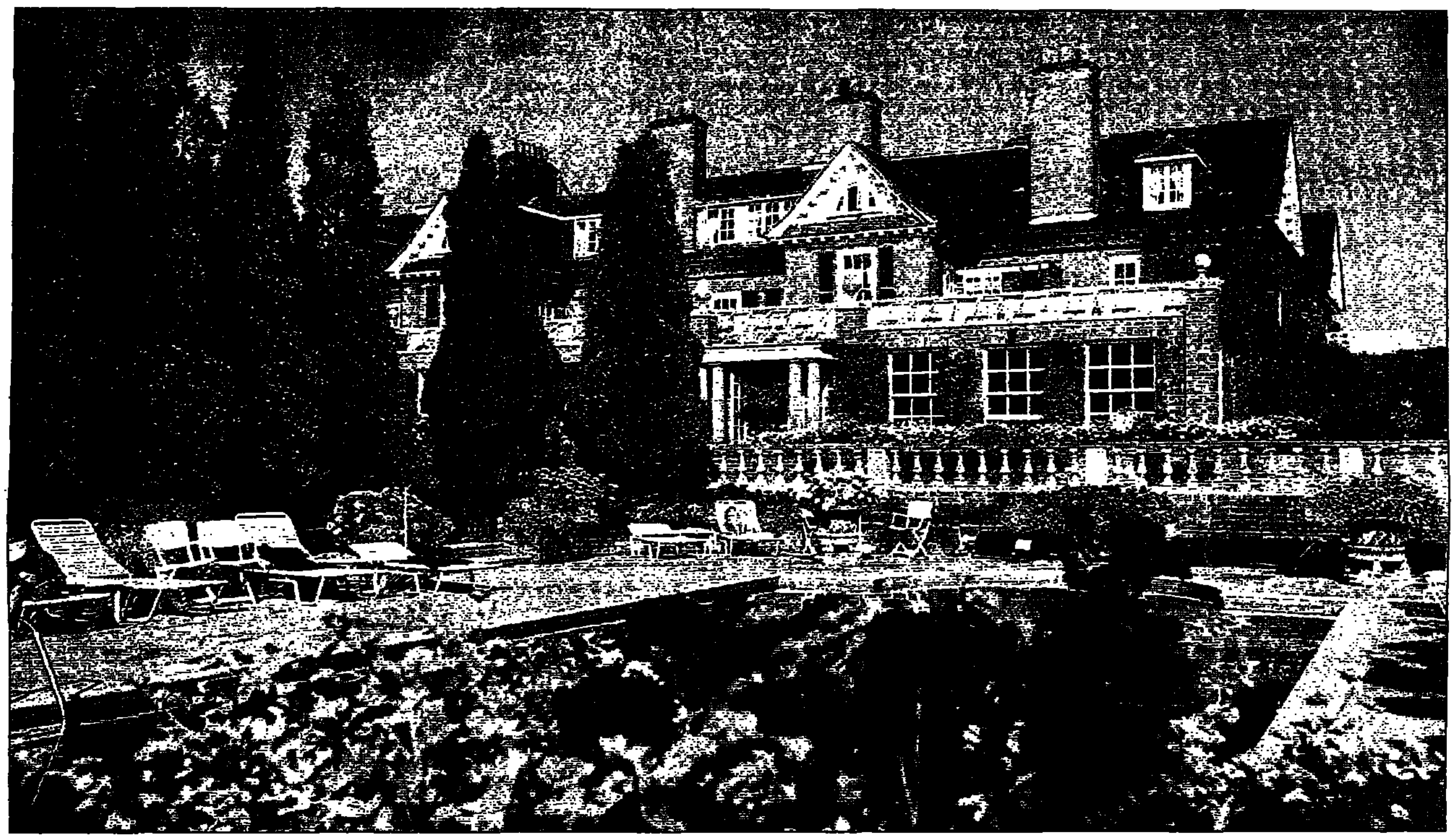
But despite the treatments and the emphasis on relaxation, I found myself increasingly irritated by the expensive, self-indulgent regime. Another source of tension was eating in dressing gowns, something I avoid at home. Having to eat breakfast and lunch surrounded by strangers with nothing on under their towelling robes except a gold Rolex and perfume is, for me, a more effective diet than any computer-aided treatment.

At 32, I'm probably too young, and perhaps even too fit, to have reaped all the benefits of Champneys. For as we pulled out of the Lexus-lined driveway I couldn't help feeling just a hint of relief as we headed back to the unhealthy delights of London.

TIM WILLCOX

● *The authors were guests of Champneys, Wigginton, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 6HY (reservations: 01442 873155, £100 deposit required). Weekend Champneys, a three-night break with all meals, daily massage and facial, is from £498 per person (double occupancy), £558 (single). A two-night break (not weekends), Discovering Champneys, is from £330 per person.*

Count the courses not the calories



Chewton Glen has a pool, gym and tennis courts, but visitors planning a health-orientated stay may find unbearable temptations in the form of calorie-laden food

I like the idea of losing weight, having beauty treatments and being forced to relax. I do not at all like the idea of stopping eating and drinking.

So I went to Chewton Glen, a swanky country house hotel in 70 acres between the New Forest and the south coast. The food is copious, the treatments divine and the hotel built so that the gardens seem to dance into the corridors where Barbours, yellowing OS maps, bowls of apples, and pairs of Wellington boots are archly arranged to create a Bertie Wooster atmosphere.

At one-ish a helicopter arrives. Guests step out and stroll to the dining room. They have flown here from Berkshire and my friend has her eye on the young man. He is delicious: but we are here to become beautiful, not to pursue men in helicopters.

And anyway the manager of Chewton Glen, Peter Crome (a former Savoy manager), is a Stephen Fry lookalike and he is joining us for dinner, which is a cheering thought as we swim our 18th length of the picturesque pool (with vast windows and a sky-painted ceiling so that even backstroke is tolerable).

We decide that 20 lengths should allow us to ease into the svelte frocks hanging in our three-acre wardrobes. That, and a stint in the steam room. It is far too hot. I panic and heave at the door. I am locked in. I am about to expire, James Bond style, when an American looms out of the mist at the far (far hotter) end of the steam room and points out that we should push, not pull the door.

At the health spa my friend buys a pair of fabulous orange shorts, which emphasise the fact that she has legs up to her armpits, and then heads for the gym. An instructor puts her on a step machine and leaves her there for 20 minutes sweating over statistics about how many calories she is burning. Roughly a KitKat's worth by the end, so she won't be trying that again.

Still wearing The Shorts she suggests a walk. We cover miles of the 70-acre landscaped park with streams and trees and bluebells and find a door in the wall which takes us down a so-called *bunny* (gully with a stream to you and me and very pretty too) and, ten minutes later, we are sauntering beside the sea. The Isle of Wight is in the distance, there is ghastly architecture along the shore, and the siren call of Chewton Glen's restaurant. We have eaten practically nothing apart from the odd cottage pie since breakfast in bed: muesli mix, Danish pastries and pain au chocolat. We canter back to the restaurant.

Stephen Fry is waiting, twitching his cuffs in rather the same way as the Prince of Wales. He is a new boy compared with some of the staff who have worked at Chewton Glen since Martin and Brigitte Skan took it over, a leaky-roofed eight-bed coaching inn, 22 years ago. They love the place and so make it lovely for their guests.

Asparagus arrives delirious with butter; huge, sauce-smothered scallops follow. The finale is a vast crème brûlée, and a cheese trolley so huge it has to be hauled across the dining room by a team of serving staff. Dream on all you health farms, this is the way to wind up a hard day in the spa.

A rock-world couple add glamour to a table by the windows overlooking the gardens and, in the centre, a party of immaculately-groomed Americans. One is the head of a large conglomerate but we don't stare one bit.

We don't even ask questions when the hotel begins to swarm with security personnel as we leave in the morning. The whole of this 54-room hotel is being taken over for a couple of days. Stephen Fry refuses to divulge who is coming. He shoots his cuffs, unflustered to the last.

JANE OWEN

● *The author was a guest of Chewton Glen, New Milton, Hampshire BH25 6QS (01425 275341). Double rooms including breakfast and table d'hôte from £283 per person. Price includes unlimited use of pool, gym, sauna,*

SPA GUIDE

■ *Healthy Breaks* by Catherine Beattie (Discovery Books, £9.99) is a useful guide to health farms, spas and hotels in Britain and Ireland as well as self-catering holiday villages such as Center Parcs.

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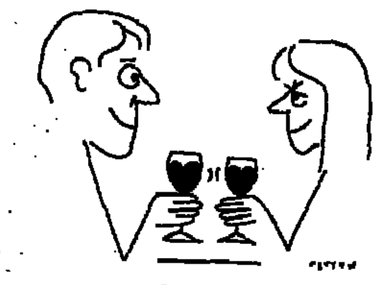

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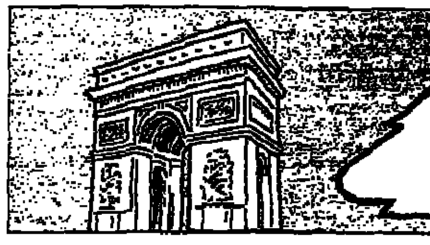

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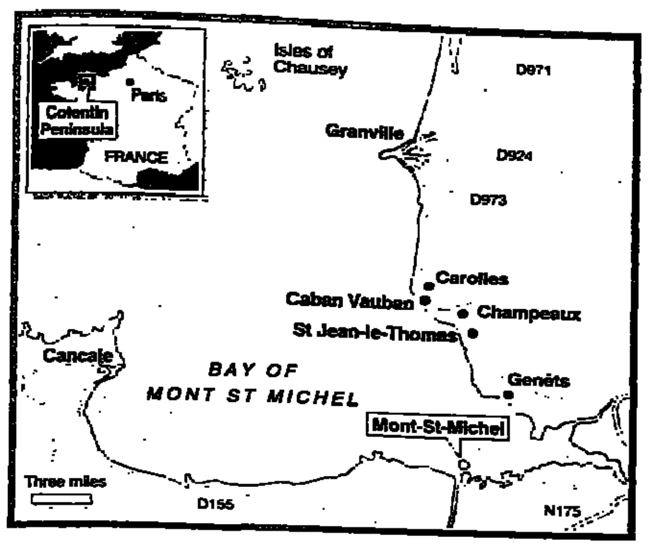
Normandy: A coastal walk of discovery that includes 'the prettiest kilometre in France'; a Gallic Rosie Lee



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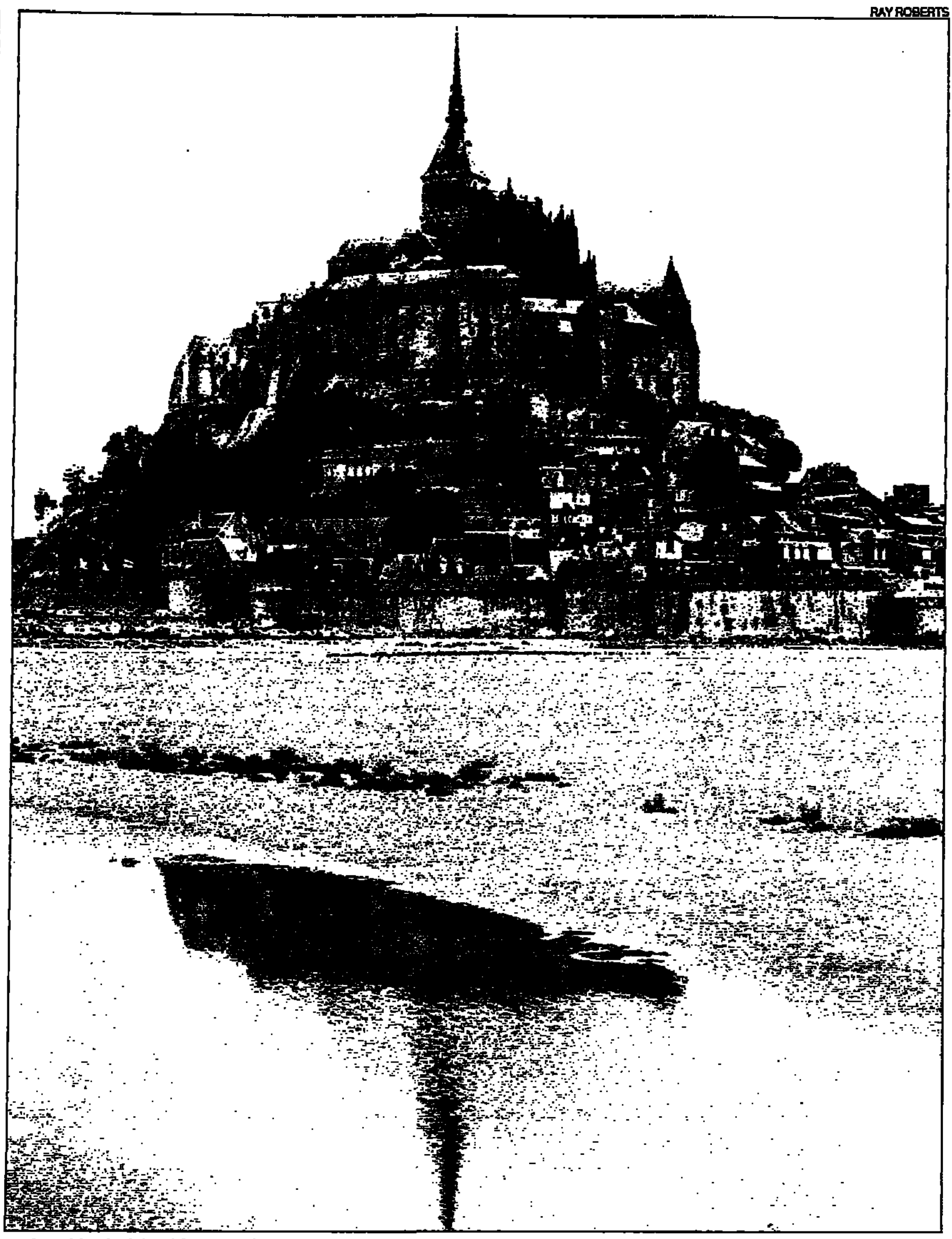
RAY ROBERTS

At low tide, the island fortress of Mont St Michel, with its imposing abbey, can be reached on foot — but only with a guide

I sat on a wall gazing out to sea, a baguette in one hand and a wedge of Camembert in the other. My wife Kate was at my side, eight-week-old Adam lay at our feet, the sun was shining and I felt as if I were in heaven.

Sheep grazed and geese cackled on the salt marshes between us and the sea. Behind them, four miles away, was the 11th-century abbey of Mont St Michel, silhouetted in the haze on its island fortress as the tides closed in. I sat entranced, as meadows flooded and mudflats turned to sea, and the question kept returning to my mind: how did it get there? How did the builders, inspired by faith, erect such a monument on this isolated rock, when every lump of granite had to be carried across dangerous quicksands, which were engulfed twice daily by the tides? It is as near as you can get to a miracle.

This was our first holiday with Adam and we were determined not to let his arrival stop us walking — he was happy to be carried in a baby sling close to our chests. We were on the GF (Grande Randonnée) 223, on the west coast of Normandy's Cotentin peninsula. The full walk is more than 150 miles, from the fishing port of Barfleur to Mont St Michel, but we were concentrating on a short stretch south of Granville, in the area known as La Baie, the bay of Mont St Michel, dominated by the abbey.

We started out from Carolles, a popular summer resort but pleasantly deserted in October, and headed for the Vallée du Lude. This forest valley, where Azorean iris and Himalayan balsam thrive in a rare subtropical microclimate, is said to have been carved out by a sword thrust from St Michael in his battle with Satan. This is the same St Michael who appeared to the Bishop of Avranches in the 8th century, thrusting a finger into his head to tell him that he was to build a chapel on Mont Tombe.

The path soon reached the Caban Vauban, a 17th-century lookout with views to Brittany and the Isles of Chausey, even to Jersey on a good day.

Another mile of scrambling along rocky cliffs brought us back on to the road at Champeaux and a beauty spot known as Les Falaises, where the cliffs are carpeted with gorse and wild cherry in spring. The local tourist board claims this is "the prettiest kilometre in France", and it was hard to disagree as we looked out over the expanse of silvery sand flats glistening in the sun at low tide.

> ❛ Gorse and wild cherry carpet the rocky cliffs ❜

It's not a bad kilometre for gourmets, either, with three restaurants competing for customers and sea views. At the Marquise de Tombelaine I chose the *menu du terroir* of Norman specialities — oysters cooked in cream, warm Camembert, and Calvados mousse.

From Champeaux the path turns inland to St Jean-le-Thomas before returning to the shore to follow the sand dunes to Genêts.

This small village is the centre of the Mont St Michel pilgrimage industry, with daily barefoot walks across the sand in summer and mass crossings in July. Whatever you do, do not try crossing without a guide; too many others have failed. The tides in the bay are the highest in Europe; at full and new moon they advance ten miles at a yard a second, crashing against the abbey ramparts in a dramatic spectacle.

As the tourist season ends, the winter pilgrims arrive — barnacle geese, which flock here from Siberia each October. Wigeon and mallard come, too, attracted by the plants, rich in salt and iodine, which grow on marshes washed daily by the sea.

The local *pré salé* lamb, fed on wild samphire, is known throughout France and is best grilled without further seasoning. Oysters and mussels thrive, too, and are gathered from the mud at low tide.

So what about Mont St Michel itself? After two days of coastal walks and seeing it from afar, we wanted a closer look, but we chose a day when all of France was on strike, and weary tourists were trudging up the abbey steps only to find a "closed" notice pinned to the door.

We settled for an omelette at Mère Poulard's, cooked in a copper pan over an open fire, and paid more than £10 each for the privilege. The walls were adorned with autographs and photos of distinguished visitors — Leon Trotsky sat provocatively above Margaret Thatcher, Maurice Chevalier rubbed shoulders with Ernest Hemingway.

Next time I'll stick to walking, and see Mont St Michel at its best — across the sand, without tourists or shops or overpriced restaurants. After all, the tides still go in and out even when there's a strike.

TONY KELLY

- *The walk is covered on the* IGN Serie Bleue *map 1215 est, available in local newsagents and bookshops.*
- *Restaurants: Marquise de Tombelaine, Champeaux (33 61 85 94). Menu du terroir, Fr150 (about £20); other menus from Fr98-Fr350.*
- *For further details call Mont St Michel tourist board on 33 60 14 30 or France Information on 0891 244123*

Talk of the tearooms

INSIDER'S GUIDE TO PARIS

As the autumn crispens, it becomes imperative to have a good *salon de thé* mapped into your route across Paris. Once oddities, tea shops are now available in every *arrondissement*, from the traditional ones started last century to the newest and hippest in the Marais.

If, after a long, cold walk, you wish to sink into a squashy armchair and a perfect *tarte Tatin* (carmelised apple tart), the tearoom is the only sensible solution. My favourite is Ladurée by the Madeline, also convenient for women who dedicate their lives to shopping in the Rue du Faubourg St Honoré. The green-and-gold-canopied shop opened in 1862, and inside it looks as if it has not been painted since: the ceilings abound with badly executed cupids and the walls are mirrored and gilded to the nines. The clientele is gilded, too: no earring is too small here, no bag clasp too shiny, no shoe is without its Gucci snaffle. Women of a certain age lunch here and scoff enormous pastries without a gold button popping.

The waitresses are properly dressed with frilly pinnies, and the service is friendly, because customers often have to change tables to cement social connections.

Outside, a crowd usually surrounds the windows, taking in what can only be described as a pornographic display. There is a full-size chocolate bust of Marie Antoinette, with meringues and roses for hair and a bustier of macaroons. Nearby are pastries, eclairs, tiny and giant tarts bursting with glazed fruit.

Ladurée is not cheap; that is the point. Tea at a marble-topped table varies between Fr31 and Fr35 (about £4 to £4.50), depending on which exquisite variety you order, and comes with leaves in the silver pot and a matching silver hot water jug. A croissant is Fr7, pastries about Fr20. For a light lunch, the Fr51 *tarte aux poireaux* (leeks) with a green salad, is much favoured. The pastry flakes and melts, the egg barely restrains chunks of buttery leek.

The French favour Ladurée, while the tourists are sent to the more expensive Angelina. This is Paris's most famous tearoom, with Versailles-style mirrors and murals. For . Fr36 Angelina does the best hot chocolate in Paris, with melted chocolate bars and whipped cream in bowls. A glass of water is supplied to calm the customer. However, souvenirs and the clientele make the place look like Tokyo or New York.

Down in the Marais, there has been an outbreak of newer teashops, satisfying in a different way. The most comforting is Les Enfants Gâtés on the Rue Francs-Bourgeois. It has old leather armchairs, wicker Lloyd Looms, yellowed walls and slices of *tarte Tatin* at Fr40 which could easily serve an entire family. Warm, the apples repose stickily by a pile of *crème fraîche*.

From 11am, Les Enfants Gâtés has one of the best brunches in Paris — small, medium, large and — for the extravagant — extra large.

KATE MUIR

- *Ladurée, 16 Rue Royale, 8th, 42 60 21 79. Angelina, 226 Rue de Rivoli, 1st, 42 60 82 00. Les Enfants Gâtés, 43 Rue des Francs-Bourgeois, 4th, 42 77 07 63. All open seven days a week.*

JILL CRAWSHAW'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

Toll in the new year

ON NEW YEAR'S DAY Austria joins the increasing band of European countries to levy motorway tolls. For foreign-registered cars a weekly disc (valid from midnight Thursday to midnight Sunday week) will cost about £4.20, a monthly disc about £9.10. Self-drive, rental companies in Austria will pay an annual fee. A number of motorways, toll roads and tunnels are not covered by the scheme, but a valid disc can bring a 15 per cent saving on some of them.

Switzerland has a flat-rate £21.50 toll for its motorways, valid for a year. Charges in France vary from about £27 between Paris and Chamonix to £60 between Calais and Nice. In Spain, the highest charge is about £35 between La Jonquera and Valencia. In Portugal the Lisbon-Porto costs £11. Italy charges £34 on the Brenner pass to Bari route. These charges are for standard-sized cars; larger ones, caravans and some trailers are generally charged extra.

Bon weekend

THE two-for-the-price-of-one promotion which French towns offer weekend visitors, mainly in 2 to 4-star hotels, starts again on November 1 and runs until March 21. A list of the 61 towns taking part is available free from mid-October from France Information on 0891 244123 (calls charged at 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p at other times).

Arabian nights

DUTY-FREE shopping in an Arabian Nights airport, beaches, watersports and desert activities are offered by Cox [illegible] on its four-night breaks to Abu Dhabi, leaving every Thursday until December 8. Return flights and B&B cost £675.

Tourism in Poland is booming

Pole vault

A REPORT by the World Tourism Organisation says that no country in the 1995 top-20 tourist league has progressed as much as Poland, visited by 19.2 million tourists in the year — up from 3.4 million in 1990.

Winter walking

A PROGRAMME of guided and independent autumn and winter walking holidays from Headwater Holidays (01606 48699) includes a week's ramble around Capri from £448 for relative softies (four to six hours a day) to a trek on Majorca from £436 for those fit enough to tackle up to seven hours with some scrambling. The prices include flights and some meals.

Opening Africa

A NEW air charter service between the Eastern Transvaal, South Africa, and Maputo, Mozambique, enables Okavango Tours (0181-343 3283) to offer a four-day safari in the Sabi-Sands game reserve, three days at Blue Mountain Lodge, four days on Benguela island and three nights at the Polana Hotel in Maputo, the former Portuguese city. The price of £2,793 includes flights, transfers, full-board on safari, most meals and some watersports.

Toughening up

BASIC SURVIVAL weekends on the Brecon Beacons, Powys, learning how to live outdoors in the wilds and cope with the unexpected, are available from Acorn Activities (01432 830083) for an inclusive price of £100.

Holiday swaps

THE PLEASURES and pitfalls of home-swapping experienced by holidaymakers are described in *Home Exchange Vacationing* (Rutledge Hill Press, £9.95), available from some bookshops and free to members of Homelink International (01344 842642) subscribing to its International Directory. Plumbing, cleanliness and neighbours are the main gripes. Low costs and the idea of staying in a home rather than a hotel are the chief motivators. Homelink publishes five directories a year offering 16,000 properties in 50 countries, for an annual subscription of £65. The British directory only costs £11.

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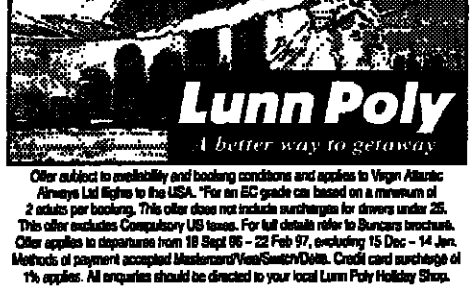
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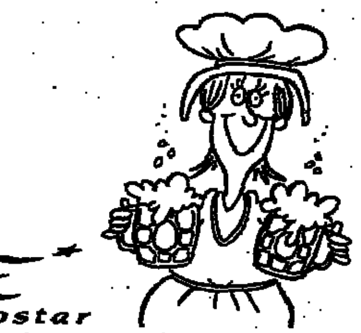

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GAMES

CHESS

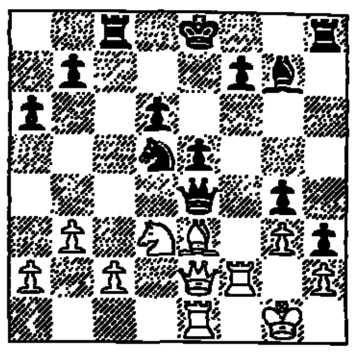
by Raymond Keene

THE LATE summer months have seen a rich haul of chess tournaments, with elite competitions in Amsterdam, London and Geneva. Now the chess Olympiad itself is in progress in Erevan, Armenia, and England has been seeded second.

Meanwhile, two games published in my daily column over the past two weeks have caused intense debate.

On September 9, I published the game between Viswanathan Anand and Garry Kasparov which decided the £20,000 first prize in the Credit Suisse Speed Chess tournament in Geneva. The following position was reached after White's 33rd move in a Sicilian Defence.

White: Anand: Black: Kasparov
Geneva, August 1996



In this position Black's aggressive play has not only undermined White's king's flank, but also brought him two extra pawns. After the correct sequence, 33 . . . Nxe3 34 Qxe3 Qxe3 35 Rxe3, White could have resigned with a clear conscience, and Kasparov would have walked off with the $30,000.

Instead, to the amazement of spectators and commentators alike, Kasparov reversed the order of his capture and allowed a diabolical counter-attack.

33 . . . Qxe3?? 34 Qxg4. Suddenly, roles are reversed. True, Black is a piece ahead, but his queen, queen's rook and bishop are all under attack. Black has no choice but to jettison material.

34 ... 0-0 35 Rxe3 Nxe3
36 Qxh3 Nxc2 37 Qd7 Nd4
38 Qxb7 a5

Black's position had been so strong that he retains some residual counterplay. Nevertheless, with accurate play White's extra material should carry the day.

39 Kg2 Rc3 40 Nb2 Nc2
41 Nc4 d5 42 Nd6 Ne3+
43 Kh3 f5 44 Qd7 f4
45 Qe6+ Kh7 46 Nf7

Then, vainly attempting to stoke up the embers of his dying attack, 46 . . . Rxf7 47 Qxf7. Speculating on the boxed-in situation of White's king, Kasparov plays 47 . . . Rc6, but a few precise moves easily banish the vestiges of his onslaught.

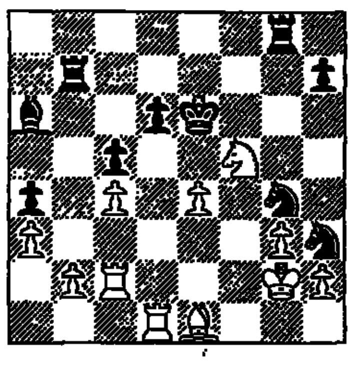
48 gxf4 Rf6 49 Qc7 e4
50 f5 d4 51 Qe7 Rh6+
52 Kg3 Nd1 53 Rf4 e3
54 Rg4

Black resigns

Despite a fierce rearguard action, Black has finally been nailed down.

The next position to stir up controversy came when the former world champion Boris Spassky resigned in his game in the Foxtrot tournament, in London's Park Lane, against the Swedish female grandmaster, Pia Cramling.

White: Cramling: Black: Spassky
London, August 1996



Black is a piece up but two pawns down. In addition White threatens both Kxh3 and Rxd6+. Spassky chose this moment to resign. But what if he had played 1 . . . Nf4+ instead of giving up? If now 2 gxf4 Ne3++ 3 Kf3 Nxd1, when Black has an extra rook. The answer is that after 1 . . . Nf4+, White simply sidesteps with 2 Kh1, when Black has no good defence to the twin threats of gxf4 and Rxd6+.

WINNING MOVE

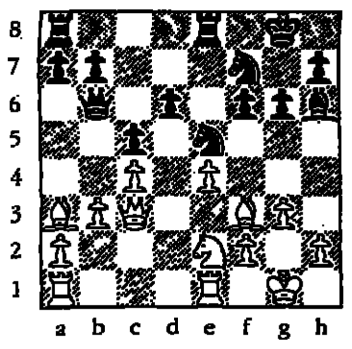
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Yepishin - Kveinys, Vienna 1996. In this innocent looking middlegame position Black spotted a clever tactic which terminated the game immediately. What did he play? Black to play.

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The solution will appear next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Qd5+

Last week's winners: A Titcomb, Bodmin, Cornwall; T J R Hill, Moortown, Leeds; C Collier, Box, Wiltshire.



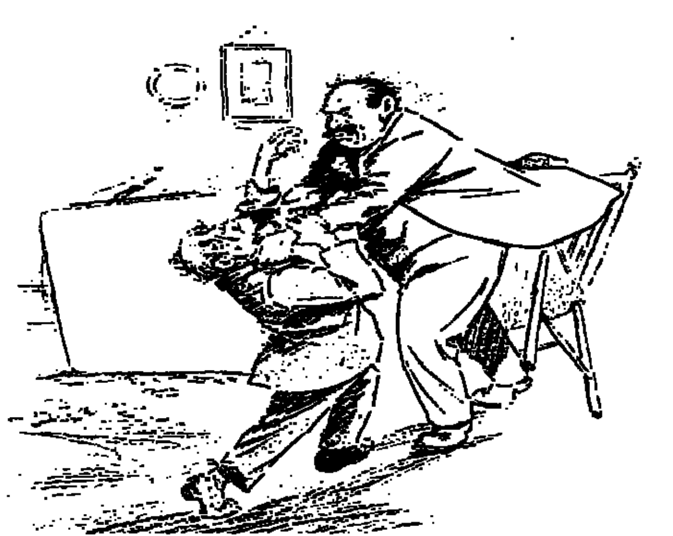
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced with permission from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption (18), Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, September 25.



MR CHASE, WITH HIS FRIEND IN HIS POWERFUL GRASP, WAS DOING *HIS BEST, AS HE EXPRESSED IT, TO SHAKE THE LIFE OUT OF HIM*

"These designer scarecrows don't seem to be working"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by B.W. Davies of Blewbury, Oxfordshire

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

LARRUP
a. The scabious
b. A young horse
c. To beat

MORMYRUS
a. A fish
b. Greek God of laughter
c. Gossip

MORMAOR
a. A pikeman
b. An Indian language
c. A steward

LARON
a. A robber
b. The Tibetan harp
c. A nasal diacritic

Answers on page 20

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

CHIP MARTEL and Lew Stansby produced a fine defence on today's hand, from the final of the American Grand National Teams (a knockout event similar to the British Gold Cup). This was the auction, with South the dealer:

S	W	N	E
1C	1H	2D	3H(1)
Pass	4H	5C	All Pass

(1)weak

As West, Stansby led the king of hearts and this is what he saw:

♠J54
♥9
♦KQJ732
♣KQ2

♠107
♥KQ10764
♦A85
♣J4

N
W E
S

The king of hearts held the first trick, with East playing the eight and South the five. What should West do at trick two? One possibility was to lead a spade, hoping East had the king-queen. However South could not have an opening bid without at least the ace-queen.

How about trying to give East a diamond ruff? Not possible — with a singleton diamond East would have overtaken the first heart and played a diamond himself.

So Stansby found the best continuation, another heart. By forcing dummy to ruff he hoped to make it difficult for declarer to be able to make use of dummy's diamonds. Stansby had got the defence off on the right foot. But the defenders still had to be alert. The full deal is at the top of the next column.

♠J54
♥9
♦KQJ732
♣KQ2

♠107
♥KQ10764
♦A85
♣J4

N
W E
S

♠K983
♥AJ82
♦1064
♣83

♠AQ62
♥53
♦9
♣A109765

Contract: Five Clubs by South.
Lead king of hearts

At trick two, declarer ruffed the heart continuation in dummy and played the king of diamonds. West won and returned a diamond. Declarer won in dummy and played the king of clubs, on which West false-carded with the jack.

South next played the jack of diamonds and discarded a second spade. Now he was at the crossroads; if trumps were 2-2 he could succeed by simply drawing the trumps. Or he could take the spade finesse — which on the auction was likely to fail. But he chose the most elegant line — playing for East to hold the two remaining trumps. He played a fourth diamond from dummy, intending to overruff when East ruffed. Then he could cross back to dummy with the queen of clubs to draw the last trump, and cash another diamond.

On the fourth diamond East (Martel) carefully discarded (ruffing would have exposed the position) and declarer triumphantly discarded his queen of spades. He was brought back down to earth when Stansby producing a small trump that he was not supposed to have, to take the contract one down.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to actor Larry Hagman who today, at 65, officially becomes an OAP. Playing the merciless oil baron in *Dallas* made him made the biggest soap star in Hollywood — and a decade ago the entire world seemed to be uttering that immortal whodunit line, "Who shot J.R.?".

In **The Elk Moon Murder**, the question is "Who killed 'er?", though it's a riddle that will probably remain unanswered by most since it is a mediocre thriller charged with insufficient tension.

Horror sweeps Santa Fé as news of a brutal murder hits the streets. As is customary in such capers, you play the rookie detective. After a briefing you set off to solve the murder, clicking your way across a map of the town interviewing witnesses, following hunches, sending items off to the labs for forensic analysis and endeavouring to home in on suspects.

Interviews are conducted as one-sided video sequences, delivered with all the panache of *Crossroads* shot with a single camera. Your questions are selected from pop-up menus though the answers invariably ramble on as they prop-up red herrings in the storyline. Though clinically pleasant to play, thrills are thin on the ground and the many encounters become chores not challenges — despite the best efforts of a cast headed by Amanda Donohoe.

The Elk Moor Murder comes on double CD-Rom accommodating Mac, Dos and Windows 95. It is the first in a series of whodunits marketed under the Santa Fé Mysteries banner; the next will be **Sacred Ground**. The real mystery is how Activision came up with something so run-of-the-mill given earlier triumphs, such as the quirky **Paparazzi Tales of Tinseltown** and its sleek **Spycraft — The Great Game**.

A similar double-disc game with obvious breathing difficulties is **The Dame Was Loaded**, from Philips. Played out with brassy low-resolution video images and set in 1940s America, you are the backstreet private eye hired to track down a seemingly clean-living chap who has vanished, perhaps even been bumped off. Holding up the pace in this title are too many dire characterisations by actors with delivery so lacklustre they would have even murdered parts in *Crossroads*. Murder and plenty of it is the main theme of Capcom's current PlayStation bestseller **Resident Evil**. Digitised square-shaped chunks of gore hit the floor as you head a team in pursuit of human-hating grizzlies. This is the game which surprisingly knocked Software's **Quake** from the coveted top spot in the games charts a few weeks ago, apparently because Quake stocks temporarily ran out, though the gameplay barely matches the quality graphics and atmospheric video sequences. This is partly because of the awkward over-the-shoulder angles of the action. Reminiscent of Infogrames' **Alone in the Dark** series, your animated character walks in straight lines yet spins over-zealously and bumps clumsily into everything in its path.

Murder, and plenty of it, is the theme to Capcom's bestseller Resident Evil

Evil seems too good a word for those you meet in **Mind of a Killer**, from Cambrix on Windows CD-Rom. This is a dark reference title, set to a menacing score, delving into the bleak worlds of mass-murderers. Jack the Ripper is listed, so are Ted Bundy and Peter Sutcliffe, but not Gloucester's evil residents, Fred and Rose West. The title is enlightening enough to get you thoroughly downhearted.

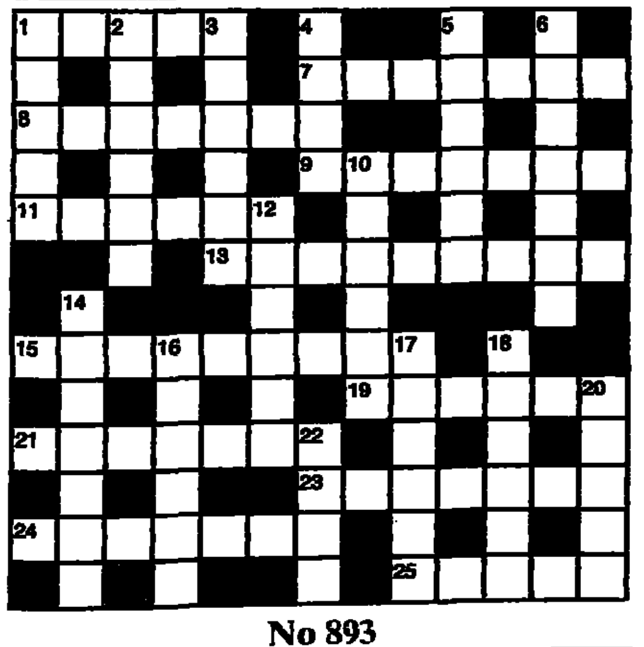
Finally, a reminder that **Cyberspace Twenty-Six** is our knock-out competition initially offering ten readers the chance to win copies of Scala's **MultiMedia MM100** authoring kit — one of which will also scoop £1,000 worth of Microsoft software. To enter you are invited to invent a unique game or enticing multimedia experience which you would like to make were you to win a copy of Scala. Our ten winners will then be asked, in one month, to attempt to turn their wild inventions into reality with the Scala kit, and submit their efforts for final judging. The finished product deemed most successful will win its author 25 of Microsoft's bestselling titles.

The competition is open to readers aged 11 and over, and entries should be of 100-200 words. Ideas can be outlandish as long as they seem feasible and marks will be added for originality and humour. Send your entries, which *must* include your name, age, address and home telephone number to: Cyberspace Twenty-Six, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The closing date for the competition is midnight on Wednesday, October 2. The judges' verdict is final and they will not enter into additional correspondence.

"Television has brought back murder into the home — where it belongs." Alfred Hitchcock, *Observer* interview (1965).

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 893

ACROSS
1 Fat: go (for) (5)
7 (Fields) of paradise (7)
8 V-shaped mark (7)
9 Curative treatment (7)
11 Refrain (from) (6)
13 The masses (*derog.*) (3,6)
15 Book producer (9)
19 Sturdy (6)
21 Make believe (7)
23 Vituperative (7)
24 Dirty; taboo to eat (7)
25 Resided (5)

DOWN
1 Strode (anxiously) (5)
2 Disquiet (6)
3 Die, fail (6)
4 Opening (for fumes) (4)
5 Of the stars (6)
6 Whaler's weapon (7)
10 Various insects: input funnel (6)
12 An alarm; sounds like *poison* (6)
14 Dried grape; a shrub (7)
16 Not much (6)
17 Grandiloquent; 1 *ac.* (6)
18 Abrasive volcanic rock (6)
20 Nottingham river (5)
22 Cold and damp (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 892
ACROSS: 1 Complacent 7 Mourner 8 Label 10 Luggage 11 Asked 12 Pumped 15 Pelvic 17 Inset 18 Algebra 21 Trite 22 Prairie 23 Chatterton
DOWN: 1 Clung 2 Mania 3 Larder 4 Collage 5 Nabokov 6 Small print 9 Lady chapel 13 Messiah 14 Entreat 16 Magpie 19 Giant 20 Baron

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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3376: Grand Slam by Phil Brindall

THIS PUZZLE represents a remarkable hand of Bridge in which East and West bid and make a Grand Slam (winning all 13 tricks) with clubs as trumps. The bidding makes it clear that South has an exceptionally strong hand, and he bids a Small Slam (12 tricks) in spades. West not confident of defeating this contract (it is, in fact, possible to do so), makes a sacrifice bid of a Grand Slam in clubs. However, when his partner (dummy) put his hand on the table, he realises that it is possible to make it.

Solvers can discover how it is done and which cards each player has. The diagram represents the table and the 52 clues represent the 52 cards in the order in which they are played. In each trick, except the first, the first card or lead is played by the winner of the previous trick, and the other three follow in clockwise order. The clues are normal (though punctuation may mislead), but to each answer the letter S,H,D or C must be added to show if it represents a spade, heart, diamond or club. To 16 answers A, K, Q or J must also be added (ace, king, queen or jack). Added letters may come at the beginning, anywhere in the middle, or at the end of an answer, though in fact only 4(a) has an added letter at the end. No square contains a letter that is added for both the across and the down clue. Answers are entered from the player's side of the table (ie West's are entered left to right, East's right to left, North's down, and South's up). At each trick the player with the lead is indicated. At trick 1 North leads the 10 of spades.

Trick 1 (North)
(a) Double clubs holding jack nothing? Hard cheese? Not at all! (5)
(b) Again another heart lead safer (6)
(c) Opening with heart lead from Michael — concede? (5)
(d) Dares to finesse — North gets buried (5)

Trick 2 (West)
(a) Queen East discarded — a blow, this (5)
(b) Led poorly — was it old age? (3)
(c) Some trap he set to get one worried! (5)
(d) Get confused — one bidding should not open diamonds first (6)

Trick 3 (West)
(a) South, having poor clubs, returning a spade, making this noises? (6)
(b) Airs a discontinued practice when holding ace (5)
(c) Got higher ace? Red one? (5)
(d) One from West not dropping leaves a club lead key to upset (5)

Trick 4 (East)
(a) Euphoria, having the best card (4)
(b) North open? Having ace knave, East doubled (4)
(c) Club king follows on different tables (7)
(d) Again puts down rest on table — upsetting! (6)

Trick 5 (West)
(a) Having no diamonds, I show clubs with force (4)
(b) West discarding last three clubs first — kind of fly? (6)
(c) Taking trick, keep finessing (lacking kings) (7)
(d) Talk round the table about king — neat one from East (4)

Trick 6 (East)
(a) Hearts long, old beast! (4)
(b) Ted set up suit — return for prayer? (4,3)
(c) About maximum, I hear, having at least 30 points in one's hand (7)
(d) No trump opening negative? (3)

Trick 7 (West)
(a) He irritates, playing cards, he does! (6)
(b) Follow suit? Another spade? Got no spades or diamonds! (3)
(c) Tried to make better cut (South and East involved) (5)
(d) Play king in competition? (Explain! (5,2)

Trick 8 (East)
(a) Did she wise one up with a neat hearts trick? (6)
(b) Extra diamonds North held a minor consideration (2-3)
(c) Did East hide his thoughts? (5)
(d) East doubled with king? That's weird! (5)

Trick 9 (West)
(a) Gladden declarer, revealing extra quantity (6)
(b) Being a retiring type, conceals clubs (7)
(c) East getting tricky heart right away! It was easy! (5)
(d) Welcome clubs here (3)

Trick 10 (East)
(a) Extra quantity concealed? It's transparent! (4)
(b) Pass from North — East's turn — a hearts recall (5)
(c) Heavens above! Risky about diamonds (king missing) after Mary's lead (3-3)
(d) Preliminary survey has clubs twice taken by ruff, partner (5)

Trick 11 (West)
(a) Covers suits, holding queen (7)
(b) Backing of North's great — for one who's old and dull! (5)
(c) With ace knave in hearts, one who goes to great lengths to show faith in East (4)
(d) States taste for redeal (5)

Trick 12 (West)
(a) Open with a knave and a king (4)
(b) Carelessly part with 10 (clubs) one could be in a jam! (7)
(c) Hearts followed by a club return nearly led — could be unpopular (7)
(d) Henry follows ace with ace — what a surprise! (3)

Trick 13 (West)
(a) Get a flier? Put up high one (knave) (7)
(b) Marks discards — twice diamonds I throw away (5)
(c) Previously hurt East, trapped by top two diamonds (4)
(d) Leading a top one (5)

I	G	A	P	O	F	E	L	A	F	E	L
N	A	B	Q	U	A	L	I	A	L	X	E
G	U	Y	O	T	W	A	C	H	A	C	E
O	S	S	E	L	E	T	K	S	K	I	P
I	S	S	U	E	D	E	S	A		T	I
N	B	A	L	T	C		O	U	R	E	D
G	E	L	A	D	A	S	H	T	E	D	O
B	E	F	O	G	S	B	U	I	S	T	S
A	G	E	S	I	S	U	M	A	T	R	A
P	L	U	M		O	A	F	I	F	E	D
O	U	A	G	E	N	T	E	S	U	A	O
D	E	R	I	D	E	R	D	O	L	T	S

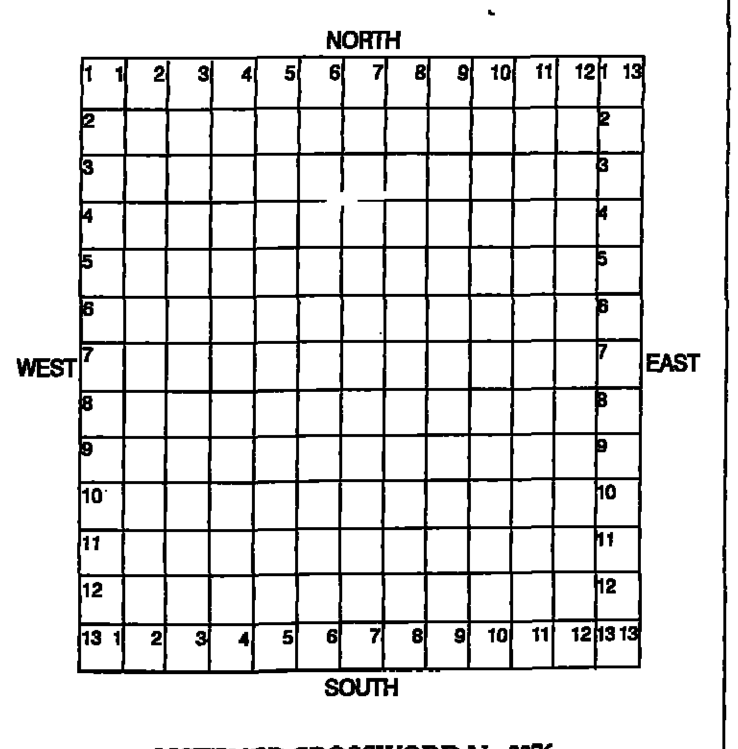
MANXMAN

Solution to No 3373: MA by Law

MANXMAN

The central 8 x 8 square is a chessboard containing the following pieces: white king (f7), knight (h7), rook (e5 and bishop (c1); black king (h6), pawn (c8) and queen (e3). (Colours are given by appropriate letters in relevant clues, e.g. fourth letter of clue 7D is W, since fourth square of light 7D contains a white piece.) The only possible solution is BxQ + KxN 2 RxP checkmate - three instances of 'man x man', leaving three squares empty and producing ten new lights.

The winner is Brian Wimsett of Dover. The two runners-up are Robert Bridges of London and Niall MacSweeney of Dublin.



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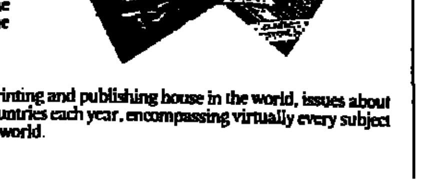

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ABSOLUTELY Stunning, slim, glamorous blonde. Zany yet romantic, divorced, 36, has everything but the guy! You are 40+, dynamic, stylish & charismatic. No emotional cripples, thanks. Photo if possible. N.E. Box No 8973

ABSOLUTELY stunning, slim, female 31, intelligent and bubbly. WLTM solvent humourous gentleman 35-45ish who enjoys the finer things in life. Reply with photo please to Box No 9024

ADVENTUROUS Woman Graduate (French/International Relations), 50, interested ideas, attractive, seeks caring, protective man for love, laughter, commitment. Living Kent, willing re-locate UK/overseas. Please Reply to Box No 8886

AFFECTIONATE, very attractive, slim, intelligent, stylish, fit, 38, Middle Eastern lady. London based, seeks genuine, loving long-term relationship with cultured, wealthy gentleman, 45+ with GSOH. Religion and nationality unimportant. Please reply with photo to Box No 8997

A great Red, a wonderful meal and me! Recently returned expat, aged to perfection, looking to return to her roots. Like the Burgundys she loves, she is soft, and supple, but with a firm structure. Seeking rare vintage man (1940 -1950): Sophisticated yet straight forward, soleful, elegant and complex who, like her, will continue to age well for many years. London based, photo please. Box No8883

ARTIST slim attractive educated widow, 50's, WLTM sensitive, stimulating, solvent n/s man. London. Reply Box 8995

ATTRACTIVE young looking 53yr old widow. Slim 5'7" seeks prof male age 45-55 to share good things in life. Very sporty. Loves eating out and travel. My idea of heaven is lying on a beach with an iced Gin and Tonic. Photo please. Surrey or SW based. Reply to Box 8903

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LADIES

ATTRACTIVE, professional, lively woman (40) with lots of interests seeks a tall (over 6') professional, good looking, energetic man with a great s.o.h., 35-45, for fun, travel, travel, romance and (maybe) more. Box No 8906

BEAUTIFUL, artistic, Sagittarian lady, middle 40's, waiting to be courted by original successful, intelligent, tall, handsome man. 46-50. S E London borders. Genuine replies/photo please to Box no 8921

"BEAUTIFUL, intelligent and modest!" 5'5" 40yr Cotswolds lady seeks tall, attractive, thoughtful guy to share life's pleasures. Photo. Box No 8932

BEAUTIFUL lady 30, Pakistani decent, seeks dynamic gent, over 45. Box No 9058

BRIGHT, attractive, vivacious, passionate, well groomed, slim country loving lady, early 30's seeks an equally tactile soul mate over 35. Where are you? Please Reply to Box No 8935

BRISTOL/ Wilts. Happy, independent lady, early 40's, enjoys outdoor activities and the arts. WLTM kind, n/s, country loving, professional man 40-55. Box No 8827

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CURRENTLY based in Wales, is a witty, trifle quirky, lateral-thinking, perceptive, sensitive, well-travelled, art-school graduate, Scottish, feisty (but loving) 54 yr. old lady who seeks a like-minded, n/s, romantic man, solvent, in his 50s and interested in sharing life's vicissitudes. Pls Reply to Box No 8979

CURVY but slim brunette. Mid 1940's vintage, warm and sincere, becoming more congruent by the day. Confident, happy, passionate, seeks a free spirit with integrity and compassion, solvent, able to carry his own baggage. under 60, n/s, photo essential, West Country. Please reply to Box No 9069

DOCTOR, 33, attractive, romantic, single WLTM intelligent and serious-minded prof man, 35-50 N/S, optimistic for lasting relationship and family life. Plse Reply to Box No 8843

DUTCH woman, 1.67m, slim, good looking, seperated, 56, loves sunny holidays, dancing, good conversation, homelike type, looks for a similar penpal/friend, who likes to dress casual like myself, min length 1.75m, age until 56. Photo would be nice. Please Reply to Box No 8950

EASTERN Persian lady, (London) divorced, attractive, young 50, petite 5' 2", fair complexion. Affectionate/caring. Animal lover. Seeks genuine, sincere attractive tall prof. man (45-60) London/Surrey. Please send recent photo to Box No 8971

ELEGANT, slim, blue-eyed blonde, 5'4", late 40's, divorced, son at Uni. Articulate, humorous, loyal, loving, likes theatre, cinema, travel, music. WLTM tall, professional, solvent, humorous, genuine male for permanent relationship. Late 40's/early 50's. London/SE. Photo essential. Box No 9044

ELEGANT, tall and attractive prof. female, enjoys the Arts, dining and sport, WLTM well educated, successful, prof./business man, 40-50, 6' +, fit, n/s, London. Please reply with photo to Box No 8891

EXETER-Taunton-West Country. Men, why write to one when we can introduce you to 100's of eligible ladies. Sarah Close Encounters 01884 255552

FEMININE, attractive, slim, blonde, 5'5", 50, independent and funloving seeks genuine, caring male with SOH for fun and friendship. Box No 9084

FUN loving, attractive, blue eyed bubbly blonde. 30 something Kitten seeks n/s Tom Cat with GSOH for lasting relationship. Herts/Home Counties. Recent photo and phone number appreciated. Reply Box 8942

GENUINE, humorous, professional man, who enjoys life, sought by attractive, slim, intelligent, feminine brunette, young looking/minded, 35, 5'6", who wants to be rescued and taken away to sunnier climes. Box No 9028

GLOUCESTER-Cheltenham-Worcester. Men, why call long distance? Close Encounters has 100's of intelligent, attractive ladies. Anthony 01600 860695

GRADUATE 35, single, n/s. would like to settle down with a warm and loving man, in order to share and enjoy life, children, and each other. South of England. Please Reply Box No 9005

GREAT mind, spirit, looks - warm, funny, creative woman, 40, seeks amiable hunk with s.o.h. Please Reply to Box No 8879

HOW about me? I'm 56, divorced, children flown. I love my ½ acre gdn, SW Wilts village & church, grow my own veg, cater a lot & struggle with my figure! I like my comforts but miss my hugs.... and you? Box No 8943

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IPSWICH-Colchester- Felixstowe. Men, why call long distance? Close Encounters has 100's of eligible, attractive ladies. Call Anne on 01473 219141

KNIGHT in shining armour wanted! by tall, prof, vivacious lady, 40's, who enjoys country walking, theatre, browsing for antiques, foreign travel. South West based. Please Reply to Box No 9029

LIVELY slim attractive professional lady, fair hair, fit, elegant (5ft-6) seeks tall intelligent enthusiastic man (38-48) to share wine, food, antiques, countryside, theatre and more! South Bucks based. Please Reply to Box No 8842

LIVELY Lady, 62, stylish, cultured, n/s, into fun and the countryside, seeks the company of a sincere, romantic country gentleman. I'm presently selling my business in the Midlands and intending to relocate South. Box No 8987

LOVELY Victorian Cotswold Home with lovely educated lady owner, just 50, children fled the nest, now seeks professional kind 45-60 yrs happy gentleman to help entertain, wine & dine and bring love and laughter back and share walks, talks, sports, theatre, travel etc. Please Reply to Box No 8974

LOVELY educated tall 40s cuddly Surrey brunette many interests WLTM a genuine tall professional gentleman 45-60 for permanent relationship. Letter, phone no and photo please to Box No 8843

MY marvellous goddaughter: Stunning girl (30s), educated, loyal, enchanting, many friends/interests, discerning yet ready to marry; deserves eligible & wise gent. with cherishing nature (possibly mature widower with children). Photograph appreciated. Please reply to Box No 8907

N WALES-Anglesey-Llandudno. Men, why call long distance? Close Encounters has hundreds of intelligent, attractive ladies. Call Roy on 01248 811661

OXFORD-Swindon-Newbury. Men, you will be amazed at how many beautiful ladies we have at Close Encounters. Call Michelle on 01672 541141

PRETTY woman, continental, intellectual, GSOH, WLTM, successful, sophisticated sensuous 60ish gentleman who likes good wining and dining, smoking. London region. Photo please. Reply to Box No 9002

PRETTY blonde professional, 46, warm, open, WLTM kind, sincere man, 46-65 for love and marriage. South. Box No 9049

RECENTLY returned to London from living abroad, seeks mature professional gentleman, 50's, for friendly companionship. Enjoys entertaining and looks forward to sharing another's interests. Box No 9041

S. LAKES. Fell-walking, professional female, 34, also enjoys foreign travel, cinema, sport, nature, WLTM active man to share mint cake - GSOH essential. Plse Reply to Box No 8837

SOUTHAMPTON-Portsmouth-West Sussex. Men, you will be amazed at how many beautiful ladies we have at Close Encounters. Ian 01903 884712

STUNNING, tall, slim brunette, 35, prof., warm, genuine, VGSOH. Many interests. WLTM tall, attractive, confident, prof. man, 28-45 with GSOH for long term relationship. London/Home Counties. Photo appreciated. Box No 8961

STYLISH classical musician in her 50's, South based WLTM like minded caring, tall, prof, n/s gentlemen. Enjoys travel, walking and flying light aircraft. Please reply to Box 8952

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STYLISH, professional, intelligent, London based female WLTM confident, music-loving (classical & rock) man, 40-50. Box No 8866

SURREY Men 30-65 yrs required for our extensive ladies membership Call Mike at Close Encounters 01932 783165

TACTILE romantic, attractive, intelligent, mid 40's woman with VGSOH and zest for life seeks man of her own as sole mate, friend and lover. You must be 39-49, intelligent, caring, unattached, solvent, GSOH, like animals and not be afraid to hold hands in public or to share feelings, hopes and life. Children welcome, any age. Letter & photo to Box No 8762

TRAPPED in Ireland. Post-war babe in great condition (blonde, green-eyed, strict vegetarian, n/s - loves Champagne), seeks a special soul to enrich her being. Box No 8857

TWICKENHAM - Sutton - Reigate. Men, it's simple! One call equals many eligible, attractive ladies. Call Michael at Close Encounters on 0181 892 9499

VIVACIOUS, attractive, refined and capable professional lady to compliment distinguished, sophisticated, under 50, seriously successful City/country gentleman, 5'10" +. Photo essential. Box No 9043

WEALTHY husband wanted. No previous experience needed for petite, attractive, strawberry blonde, 42, sensitive, sensuous, caring. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 8977

WE'RE Good Fun, attractive, intelligent, high achievers with a passion for work, but not boring. We like most things, someone to phone, caring, switching off, fun, trying anything new. Me never married, not a bunny boiler, happy on the shelf, don't want children. Slim, 5'5", 36 yrs, can turn heads (tuck knickers in skirt), happy to travel. Do we share the same needs and dreams? Photo and life CV. Box No 8845

WHAT about it? Are you a gentleman over 70 who would enjoy company for walks, meals and occasional outings? I am an energetic widow with many interests. London based. Please Reply to Box No 8889

WINSOME Wench desires Dashing Daredevil, over 6', over 45, faster than Fangio, wittier than Wilde, to pursue me in Peak District. Box No 8968

YORKSHIRE-Humberside. Men, why write to one when we can introduce you to 100's of eligible ladies. Call Marina at Close Encounters 01430 871212

GAY woman with good looks and brain power seeks gay woman with good looks and brain power. Loves films, books, walks and eating out. 30's or 40's only. London area. Please reply to Box No 8994

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GENTLEMEN

ACTIVE, busy Company Chairman, early 50's, London area, fit, sporting and masculine, now sadly single seeks caring feminine chum, 30-40's. Photo. Please Reply to Box No 9033

AFFLUENT retired Doctor, London and Swiss homes, late 50's seeks educated lady companion under 55 for outings, music & travel, possibly permanent relationship. Reply Box 8944

ARE you a mature single lady and a dedicated Christian? I am a sincere Christian widower, educated, musical, gentle, seeking lasting friendship, even a wife. Please send details with photo. Box No 9003

ART Dealing rugby player, 42, seeks 30ish, fun-loving, sporty girl. Photo pls. Box No 8919

A SLIM Spinster with home wanted to welcome, a daughter 3¼, man 66/178/72 fair looks honest solvent, friendship/marriage. Box No 8900

ATTRACTIVE, intelligent, professional male, 36 yrs WLTM female to wine & dine. Please reply to Box No 8925

AUTHOR, early retired from South Seas, civilized, solvent, WLTM intelligent, elegant 50ish lady, E.Anglia/London. Letter, photo, tel. no. please. Reply to Box No 8870

BEAUTIFUL woman does'nt need handsome man, too much competition to use the mirror. Not being handsome I could be perfect for you. 50ish, 5'8 and fit, worldly, good company and a good listener, London based, smart and quite successful. You might be 30-40 and at a point in your life when you are ready to meet someone more mature. Drop me a line with a photo (essential) & see what develops. Reply to Box No 8976

BUSY prof man, medium build, 55, widowed but had very happy and successful marriage. Committed christian, warm, caring, kind, affectionate, Open confident personality, n/s, varied mainly cultural interests, particularly music, East Midlands based. WLTM 40-50 something, prof/business lady of similar qualities. Attractive, feminine, with own interests, for friendship initially. Recent photo appreciated. Good letter and your phone number please. ALA. Please Reply to Box No 9038

CARING romantic and sensitive! Teacher n/s, 50's, wishes to explore arts, travel, love, life with slim lady in her 40's from London or South East. Please reply with photo to Box 8744

CHARMING Company boss, 43, fun loving and stylish, South West based, seeks slim, 30's, bubbly beauty. Photo please. Reply to Box No 8989

CHICHESTER/Portsmouth. 25m radius. 100's of professional gentlemen wanting to meet you. Elite Introductions telephone now 01730 895278

CONSULTANT Physician tall dark haired, good looking, in late 40's North Surrey seeks tall slim elegant, attractive lady in 30's or 40's who is warm, tactile, and loves life, intelligence and humour essential to share a fulfilling relationship with poss long term commitment. Please reply with a recent photograph to Box no 9075

COUNTRY land owner. 50, mid Worcestershire, seeks lady 40-50 who likes the countryside to enjoy weekends with, and nights out, with GSOH. Please Reply to Box No 8922

CRUISE the Caribbean. Join us free on our hedonistic adventure on a 50' yacht in early '97. I am a tall well built 41 year old sportsman looking for an intelligent, attractive, gregarious, sensuous lady to enjoy life on the ocean wave Box 8929

DECADENT, cloak wearing history and poetry reading wine drinking, music loving, eccentric smoker 50 seeks an alluring sensuous lady 40-65. Commitment not essential. London, S.East, E.Anglia. Please Reply to Box No 9015

DIRECTOR, 6'3", good-looking, 40, GSOH, enjoys sports, eg tennis, travel, entertainment, seeks tall, slim, n/s, funloving lady for an honest, caring relationship. Photo please. Thames Valley. Box No 8975

EDUCATED wealthy gentleman 70's WLTM much younger Christian woman who has never been married for committed relationship. S. W. England Close Encounters Box No 9017

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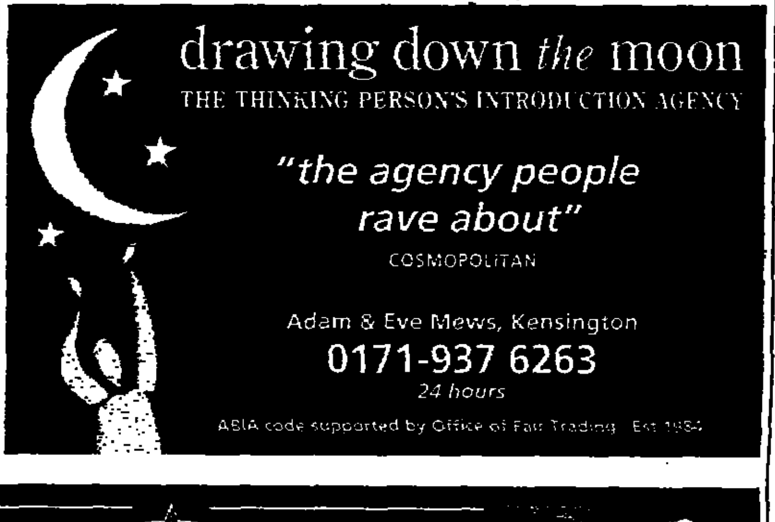
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EMOTIONALLY Baggage free and now ready to come out to play. Civilised, cultured company chairman, highly solvent and successful, 40's, seeks soulmate and playmate with a zest for life, independent spirit, sparkling energy and wicked wit seeking to rekindle the flame and excitement of idealism and caring. Can you cope with a workaholic sybaritic hedonist who devours champagne, good food, better wine, stimulating conversation, theatre, classical music, literature, travel and more? Who adores France and Italy, West of Ireland, unspoilt beaches and luxury hotels. Who has a serious side which offers and demands integrity, trust and genuine commitment if the chemistry is right? Who is a highly tactile, open, honest and demanding potential lover who is unwilling/unable to either compromise or fudge. You're 30-42, self aware, spontaneous, articulate, London or M4/M40 corridor based, stylish, thoughtful, genuinely beyond the last relationship, and truly ready to come out and play. Let's have some fun and hopefully a whole lot more. Photograph and thoughtful letter will elicit immediate response and hopefully a good initial dinner. Box No 9051

ENIGMATIC, mercurial pilot, 39, tall, dark, good-looking and amusing, seeks attractive soulmate. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 9071

EXETER-Taunton-West Country. Ladies, why write to one when we can introduce you to 100's of eligible gentlemen. Close Encounters 01884 255552

FITNESS enthusiast, racing cyclist currently competitively active, 40, 5ft 11in, single, good looking professional (PhD) male, many sporty and cultural interests seeks fit, tallish, friendly, slim, attractive, single, sporty professional female to share interests and dreams, East Anglia/Any. Please reply with photo.Box No 8878

FORGING AHEAD. Leaving the past behind and earnestly seeking someone with whom I can share the future. My name is David, I am 51, tall and slim. A Friend of The Royal Academy, a lover of cinema, theatre and countryside. I have a beautiful sea view yet I live but an hour or so from London. Please Reply to Box No 8851

FRIENDS say: "There are a lot of slim, attractive ladies in their 40's, who would like to meet a professional man in his 50's, even if he is thin on top and has no pretence about being handsome." They say: "He is a lovely man, educated but not snobbish, successful but not demeaning, easy-going but not a pushover." OHAC & financially independent. Separated for 4 years & definitely missing the warmth & comfort of a committed relationship. Photo guarantees reply. Hants/Surrey/Dorset areas. Please Reply to Box No 8970

GLOUCESTER-Cheltenham-Worcester. -Ladies, why call long distance? Close Encounters has 100's of intelligent, attractive gentlemen. Anthony 01600 860695

GOOD-LOOKING male, early 40's, genuine, sensitive, n/s, own hair and teeth, divorced 3 years, sought refuge in career but now ready for romance and more. Seeks woman of beauty, integrity and wit. Mids/NW. Photo please (will return). Please reply to Box No 8985

GOOD-LOOKING man, 43, university educated, varied interests including classical music and theatre, seeks attractive, sensitive, thirty-something woman for friendship, tenderness, joyful romps and lasting love. London area.Box No 9001

HARD-WORKING Company M.D., caring, animal/country lover, adventurous, former sportsman, pilot, WLTM English Rose to spoil and relax with. Please reply to Box No 8816

INDEPENDENT European business man late 20's with GSOH, wit and wide social and sports interests seeks similar for lasting relationship. Photo appreciated. London/Home Counties. Reply to Box No 9022

INTELLIGENT, sophisticated and handsome Indian Gentleman, with a good physique, desires to meet the lady of his dreams. Aged 34, culturally aware, yet immersed in the "WEST". VGSOH, wide range of interests, including travel, good career and lifestyle. WLTM an attractive, slim, fun-loving, vivacious Asian lady with similar qualities. Please write enclosing a recent photo (essential and returned), with your phone no. Box No 8934

INTELLIGENT, attractive man (mid 40's) with own cars, home, successful businesses in Brighton and London; likes tennis, theatre, dining out. WLTM interesting, cultured, attractive, slim lady (under 45) with GSOH for friendship and/or romance. Photo appreciated and returned. Box No 9053

INTERNATIONAL Businessman, recently divorced, with apartment in London & the Continent, enjoying a good life - restaurants, theatre, parties & travel (business & pleasure) to the Continent, California & the Far East, seeks that special person to share his interests & fun. You must be very attractive, between 21 & 35, photo & phone no, appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 8958

IPSWICH-Colchester- Felixstowe. Ladies, why call long distance. Close Encounters has 100's of eligible, attractive gentlemen. Call Anne on 01473 219141

LADY tall slim late 40s early 50's sought by divorced early 60's successful professional man of many interests looking for a lasting relationship. Recent photo a must. Please Reply to Box No 8735

LAWYER/Lobbyist, London, non employed, 6', good looking, 46, with assets, seeks phone number of tallish, warm, desirable, fecund, self supporting mate with enquiring mind. Box 9011

ME Tall, slim, stylish male, 42, W.S.O.H. Fun loving & romantic, non academic working lad made good, learning to appreciate some of life's nicer things. You 30+, stunning, attractive and successful, warm & tactile, wishing to meet a man who will not be threatened by these qualities, will not use you, and give you passion & protection. Midlands/North East. Photo please. Box No 8814

MISSION Impossible? Attractive single gent, 31, seeks outgoing, intelligent female for many pursuits. Save the last dance for me! Photo please. Please reply to Box No 9066

MUSIC loving, opera going and generally cultured 38 year old prof gent seeks like-minded lady thirty-something to share good things of life. London based. Box No 8815

NEXUS During the Autumn Nexus members will not only be having parties, weekends away and meeting socially but also making friends individually. What will you be doing? Unattached? Ring for the brochure. (012374) 71704, (0181) 367 6328, (0113) 2446186, (01869) 336801, (0141) 221 1090, (0181) 944 8629, (01286) 831699, (0121) 472 1968 or (01202) 730355. Not a Marriage Bureau or Dating Service.

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N WALES-Anglesey-Llandudno Ladies, why call long distance? Close Encounters has hundreds of intelligent, attractive gentlemen Call Roy 01248 811661

OLD arable farmer. North Beds seeks partner, tennis, bridge, travel, quickstep, archaeology. Please Reply to Box No 8836

ONE only quality ex-London, emotionally rich, mature, professional man. Good manners, strong confident personality, not loud, fit solid build, 5'10", told interesting attractive company. Very romantic, caring VGSOH. Norfolk country home, near Coast, land, animals etc. Seeks chemistry with homely, easy going, but fun loving, adventurous, compatible woman to nurture, take care of, make happy. To 50. Excellent lifestyle. Box No 8949

OUTGOING, caring, happy MD, S.E., 5'6", early 40's, likes children, most sports, good food, travel, music. Seeks slim, attractive lady, 28-40. Please Reply with photo to Box No 8992

OXFORD based 55 yrs male grad, co. director, N/S, 5'8", 12½ stn, WLTM lady 40-60 for company to occasional London concerts, exhibitions, etc. & weekend breaks UK & continent Bx 8597

OXFORD - Swindon - Newbury. Ladies, you will be amazed at how many attractive gentlemen we have at Close Encounters. Call Michelle 01672 541141

PERSONALITY,40's,gsoh, funloving,n/s,ok-looking?Me too.Up to 25mls from Eros(who else?),pref NW Lond. A note,tel & photo pls.Box No 8923

PROFESSIONAL, 6ft, slim, solvent, 20 yrs overseas, fit, young looking 47 WLTM stylish sensuous lady of good taste. London & North. Box No 9077

SHARE and enjoy more of life? Professional male, many interests, great S.O.H. thoughtful & caring WLTM lady 20's-40's to share the good times still to be experienced. Northern based, but will travel. Box No 8813

SINGLE, slim, successful, solvent, sportive, well-preserved, assertive, mature, professional, seeks younger (under 45) compatible, attractive, female of any nationality needing these qualities. London telephone number &/or photograph guarantees reply. Box No 8913

SOUTHAMPTON-Portsmouth-West Sussex. Ladies, you will be amazed at how many attractive gentlemen we have at Close Encounters. Call Ian today on 01903 884712

SPORTS fan, 37 year old man, successful, with superb qualities, has slight walking disability but overcome with personality and enthusiasm, seeks loyal, n/s, 25-45, sincere friend/relationship. West Midlands. Please Reply Box 8993

SUCCESSFUL, well educated, independent business professional and classical musician, late 30's, 5'11", slim, sensitive, sensual, sometimes arrogant, no children (yet!) seeks slim, stylish, independent lady to lose heart to and share wide cultural pursuits, food and fine wine, travel, skiing, growth, conversation, mutual TLC, fun and passion. London and South East. Photo (returned), letter and phone no. please to Box No 9055

SURREY ladies 30-65 years required for our extensive male membership Call Mike at Close Encounters 01932 783165

TALL handsome Leo, with lots of energy and enthusiasm for life WLTM confident charming lady with GSOH for long term relationship aged 30 - 40 local to London. Please send photo and letter to Box no 8930

THERE is more to life than hard work and sport. I am a man and I want to share my life with a woman. I am 42 "young" for my age fit thoughtful sensitive and have a quiet sense of humour. Any woman who is interested in life sincere and aged 34 to 40 please write with photo. Reply to Box No 8899

TWICKENHAM - Sutton - Reigate. Ladies, it's simple! One call equals many eligible, attractive gentlemen Call Michael, Close Encounters on 0181 892 9499

VERY good looking, successful, youthful male, 35, into enjoying the best in life seeks beautiful lady 20-35 looking for fun and romance. Photo please. Reply to Box No 9054

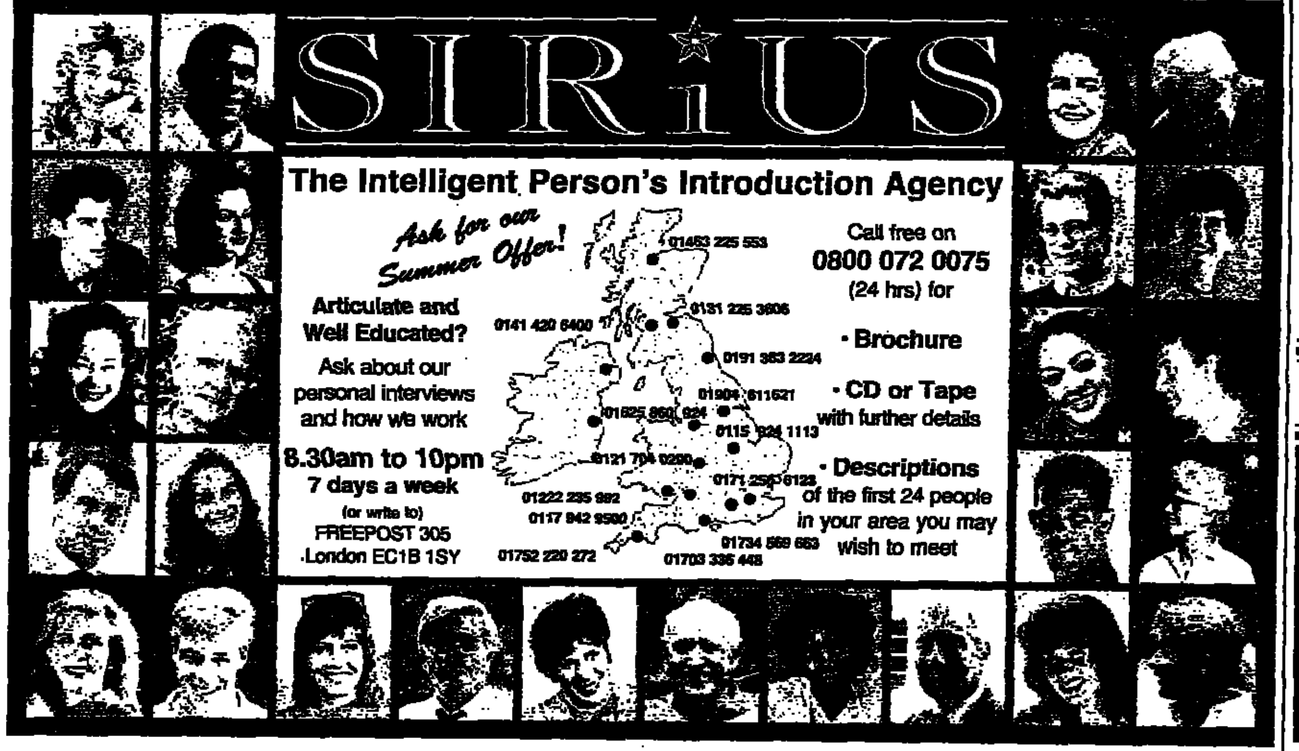
WIDOWER Professional, 57, tall, WLTM sincere, educated, unattached, affectionate, n/s lady, London or South. Box No 8856

WIDOWER (74) requires a rich widow to accompany him and pay for a round the World trip on QE2 or Oriana. Box No 9078

WRITER/Publisher/Musician WLTM very special knowledgeable responsible woman, about mid 30's to 40, with own profession or engaging interests, who wants children in a loving relationship. Myself: 5'7, highly personable, dark hair, pragmatic beard (otherwise 5'oclock shadow appears at 10am), quite young enough, living in SE but not committed to there, with close friends here and abroad. Do write about yourself your letter will be answered. Please Reply to Box No 8941

YORKSHIRE - Humberside. Ladies why write to one when we can introduce you to 100's of eligible gentlemen. Marina Close Encounters 01430 871212

YOUNG 25 year old, switched on in both looks and personality WLTM young lady in Northants Beds/Midlands up to age 32. Genuine advert. Guaranteed reply to photo and letter. Elite Introductions Box No 9070



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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

TSB offers women guide on pensions

With life expectancy for women increasing and more marriages ending in divorce, research shows that at least half of women in the UK will suffer financial hardship in retirement. *Women & Pensions*, from the TSB, offers guidance on what women can do to build up their own pensions. For a copy, telephone 0645 758700. Meanwhile, both men and women changing their jobs should be considering whether or not to take their pension with them. *Time for the Future*, from Clerical Medical, is a step-by-step guide to pension transfers. Telephone 0800 293030.

■ The Scotch Whisky Association is warning investors not to rush into putting money into casks of maturing Scotch whisky. Unwary investors have found that the purchase price is considerably higher than the value placed on the whisky for insurance purposes or that the appreciation in the value of the investment has been exaggerated by promoters. A leaflet from the association, *Personal Investment In Scotch Whisky*, sets out points which investors should consider before buying casks. Telephone 0131 229 4383 or 0171 629 4384.

■ Worldwide travel insurance has launched a Wintersports plan for skiers or snowboarders. The cost for an adult for ten days in Europe is £24 Standard Ski or £29.50 Super Ski: worldwide cover is £37.50 or £46.50 respectively. Super Ski comes with the benefit of continued physiotherapy in the UK. Premiums can be reduced by 15 per cent by removing baggage or money cover. For details telephone 01732 773366.

■ Two new fixed rate bonds offer competitive rates. The Millennium Bond from Bradford & Bingley pays 7.25 per cent gross fixed for three years, or 7 per cent for monthly interest. Minimum balance is £1,000. Leeds & Holbeck's Fixed Rate Bond has a two or three-year term. For balances from £1,000 to £10,000 it pays 6.5 per cent for two years and 6.75 per cent for three. Over £10,000, the rates are 6.65 and 7.05 per cent, and there is a monthly option. Withdrawals can be paid with both bonds, but with a penalty. For savers wanting to fix for longer, the Cheshire has a five-year escalator bond, paying, on average, 7.7 per cent gross a year.

SARAH JONES

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Teachers' BS 01202 887171	Bullion	Instant	£500	4.80	½Yly
Alliance & Leic BS 0645 228858	Instnt Direct	Postal	£5,000	5.40	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Instnt Postal	Postal	£10,000	5.85	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Instnt Postal	Postal	£25,000	6.05	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nottingham BS 0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20Day(p)	£2,500	6.10	Yly
Nottingham BS 0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20Day(p)	£25,000	6.40	Yly
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	Mutual Interest	1Yr Bond	£1,000	6.25	Yly
Northern Rock 0500 505000	Ptl Deposit Bnd	31.12.98	£2,500	6.75	F/Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505		5 year	£8,575	7.50	F/Yly
NatWest Bank 0800 200400		5 year	£5,000	7.45	F/Yly
Birmingham Mid. BS 0645 720721		5 year	£1,000	7.00	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£500	6.80	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.64%NC	7.90%N	Nil
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.896%C	11.20%	Nil
Midland Bank 01702 353344	*MasterCard/Visa*	*0.945%N*	*11.90%N*	Nil N

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0141 248 9966	13.90%E	£112.86	£101.33
Midland 0800 180180	14.90%	£115.82	£102.49
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	14.90%	£115.47	£102.59

Nb. C = no interest free period, E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
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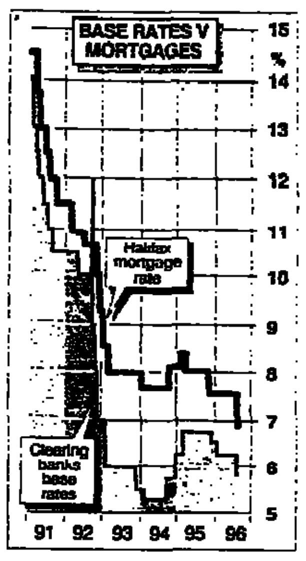
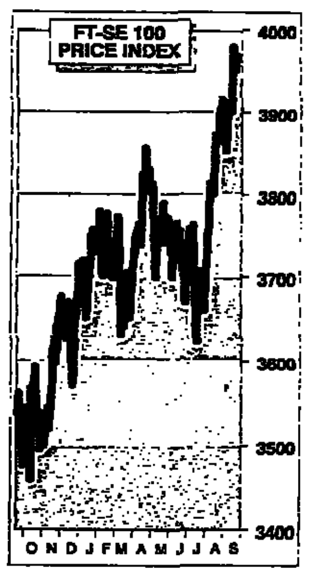
Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*s	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500**²	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond* s	6.00	4.80	3.60	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond s	6.00	4.80	3.60	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
43rd Issue Cert†‡s	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond s	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
9th Index Linked†s	2.50			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3 s	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000s	60day	0645 645000

¹1st £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ‡Guaranteed when held for 5 years °0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ ᵉ£100,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings • Taxable but cred in full ¹£500-100,000 earn higher rates **Tiered rates apply.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Stalwart* ....Level	£10,359	£11,396	£12,488
Generali ....Level	£10,359	£11,382	£12,717
Canada Lf ....Level	£10,166	£11,332	£12,912
Sun Life ....Level	£10,255	£11,285	£12,693
Prudential............Level	£10,218	£11,225	£12,590

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£9,573	£10,310	£11,387
Generali ....Level	£9,469	£10,308	£11,474
Sun Life ....Level	£9,526	£10,252	£11,330
Stalwart* ....Level	£9,457	£10,244	£11,204
Canada Lf ....Level	£9,340	£10,176	£11,403

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Stalwart* ....Level	£9,271	£9,943	£10,695
Generali ....Level	£9,234	£9,844	£10,689
Sun Life ....Level	£9,159	£9,720	£10,526
Prudential ....Level	£9,101	£9,629	£10,339
Canada ....Level	£8,927	£9,583	£10,514

* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers.
Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lucy Dupuis

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at September 20, 1995

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	4.75
	10,000	AIG Life	4.85
	20,000	AIG Life	4.90
	50,000	AIG Life	5.05
2 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	4.45
	3,000	Pinnacle Ins	5.50
	20,000	AIG Life	5.60
	50,000	AIG Life	5.70
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.00
	10,000	AIG Life	5.83
	20,000	AIG Life	5.93
	50,000	AIG Life	6.03
4 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.35
	3,000	ITT Lond&Edin.	6.20
5 Years			
	3,000	ITT Lond&Edin.	6.55

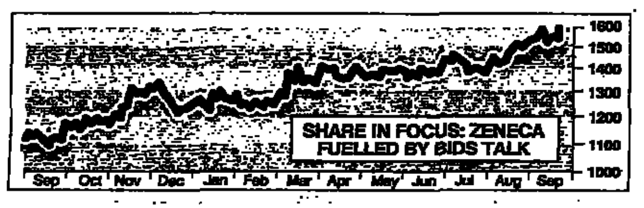
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	100.42	9.329	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	120.77	9.626	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	135.66	9.583	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	140.03	9.551	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	135.10	9.623	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	127.55	9.485	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	119.25	9.853	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	94.14	9.294	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	126.34	9.286	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	145.06	9.393	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	141.12	9.478	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	117.01	9.172	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	136.35	9.259	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	136.73	9.233	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	135.61	9.494	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/09-21/03)	8.5875%	107.63	100.00	1,000
First National	8.70625%	101.63	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



SHARE IN FOCUS: ZENECA FUELLED BY BIDS TALK

LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Alliance & Leics 0181 742 0471	1.39	£200-300k	75	Disc of 5.6% until 1.8.97
Northern Rock 0800 591500	0.99	£100-150k	90	Disc of 6% to 1.10.97.
Yorkshire 0800 378836	1.59	to £150k	95	5% disc - 6mth 1.25% - 18mth
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.25% disc-6mth 3% disc-6mth
Bank of Scotland 0131 243 5740	1.99	to £200k	95	Disc by 5% for 5 mths.

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.05	to £150k	70	Rate fixed for 12 months.
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.20	to £150k	70	Fixed for 1 yr.
Mansfield 01246 202055	0.39	£75-125k	90	6.35%dsc 6mth, 2%6mth, 1%12mth
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.25%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Barclays 0800 000929	3.49	£15-500k	95	3.50% discount for 12 mths.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol&West 0800 608088	0.95	£15k+	95	6.04% disc 6 mnth then 1% disc-6mth
Lambeth 0171 928 1331	3.74	£15k+	95	3.25% disc for 12 months.
Newbury 01635 43676	4.24	£15-150k	95	2.5% disc for 12 months.
Banks				
Bankofireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.25% disc 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
TSB 0500 758000	3.25	£15k+	95	3.74% disc for 12 months.

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE 0131 339 4191				
Balanced	532.00	563.00	+ 6.80	...
UK Equity	701.20	742.10	+ 9.50	...
Property	424.30	449.10	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Interest	366.30	387.70	+ 2.90	...
Money	267.60	283.20	+ 0.20	...
International	436.30	461.70	+ 9.80	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	195.20	205.50	+ 1.20	..
Ethical S4	161.70	170.30	- 0.20	...
International S4	224.20	236.10	+ 2.20	...
Protected Gth S4	123.30	129.80	+ 0.30	...
Asian Pacific	208	219	+ 1.30	..
European S4	213.90	225.20	+ 2.40	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	390.60	411.20	- 0.10	...
Equity Ser 4	271.40	285.70	+ 1.00	...
Man Ser 4	784.70	826	+ 5.10	.
Conv Ser 4	351.40	369.90	+ 0.20	...
Money Ser 4	351.10	369.60	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	384.40	404.70	+ 2.00	...
American Ser 4	650.20	684.50	+10.40	..
High Inc Ser 4	809.60	852.30	+ 6.20	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	228	240.10	+ 1.20	..
Japan Ser 4	347	365.30	+ 2.30	...
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1955.80	2058.70	+ 3.20	...
European Fd Acc	479.00	504.20	+ 3.30	...
Fixed Int Acc	558.10	587.50	+ 3.20	...
Gtd Money Acc	357.90	376.70	- 0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	761.50	801.60	+ 6.80	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	372.00	391.50	+ 0.50	...
Japan Fund	261.80	275.50	+ 3.40	...
N American Acc	429.80	452.40	+ 4.20	...
Prop Fd Acc	470.30	495.00	+ 0.40	..
Multiple Inv Acc	1234.60	1299.60	+ 4.20	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	401.00	422.20	+ 0.30	..
Equity Acc	1727.00	1817.90	+ 8.40	...
Property Acc	638.80	672.50	+ 0.70	...
Far East Acc	339.60	357.50	+ 3.90	...
Managed Capital	620.20	652.90	+ 2.50	...
-do- Acc	1312.60	1381.70	+ 5.80	...
Overseas Acc	1181.60	1243.80	+ 3.30	...
Gilt Edged Acc	542.50	571.10	+ 2.00	...
Amer Equity Acc	1081.00	1138.00	+13.80	...
Amer Man Acc	454.50	478.50	+ 5.50	...
Amer Prop Acc	120.30	126.70	+ 0.30	...
Distribution Bonds	25.00	26.40	+ 0.10	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	176.10	185.30	+ 0.50	..
Balncd Ser 6	851.30	896.10	+ 4.80	.
Opportunity Ser 6	197.80	208.20	+ 2.70	...
Distribution Ser 6	102.90	108.30	+ 0.60	7.02
UK Equities Ser 6	1222.90	1387.20	+ 6.50	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1229.20	1293.80	+ 5.20	...
North Amer Ser 6	627.00	660.00	+15.00	...
Far East Ser 6	602.70	634.40	+10.80	...
Europe Ser 6	475.30	500.30	+ 6.40	...
Intnl Ser 6	691.30	727.60	+12.00	...
Property Ser 6	595.80	627.10	+ 0.70	
Fixed Int Ser 6	490.70	516.50	+ 2.30	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	196.90	207.20	+ 1.40	..
Gteed Dep Ser 6	319.20	336.00	+ 0.30	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1052.90	1108.40	+ 6.20	..
-do- Initial	654.10	688.60	+ 3.80	.
Gilt Edged Acc	428.30	450.90	+ 2.20	...
-do- Initial	268.40	282.60	+ 1.40	.
International Acc	469.00	493.70	+ 5.50	...
-do- Initial	292.00	307.40	+ 3.40	...
Managed Acc	627.70	660.80	+ 4.50	...
-do- Initial	392.20	412.90	+ 2.80	...
Money Acc	311.80	328.30	+ 0.20	.
Property Acc	313.50	330.00	+ 0.20	.
-do- Initial	194.60	204.90	+ 0.10	...
America Acc	370.60	390.20	+ 3.60	...
Far East Gwth	249.00	262.20	- 1.70	.
Financial Acc	461.40	485.70	+ 5.30	...
500 Accum	535.40	563.60	+ 0.90	...
Japan Acc	294.80	310.40	+ 4.40	...
Income Acc	623.30	656.20	+ 4.20	...
Leisure Acc	331.20	348.70	- 1.70	..
Special Sits Acc	318.10	334.90	+ 1.90	..
Univ Tech Acc	188.50	198.50	+ 2.10	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	960.57	960.57	+ 9.30	...
Income Fund	900.30	947.69	+ 8.49	...
Extra Income	813.99	856.84	+ 7.38	.
Worldwide Gth	558.44	587.84	+ 7.32	...
Balanced Fund	815.13	858.04	+ 6.87	..
Smllr Cos Recov	£10.59	£11.15	+ 9.79	..
N Amer & Genrl	460.27	484.50	+10.73	...
Pacific Basin	450.87	474.60	+13.49	...
German Growth	261.88	275.67	+ 1.19	...
Japan Growth	187.06	196.91	+ 6.16	..
The UK Gth Fd	262.96	276.80	+ 2.01	.
Contl Euro Gth	168.69	177.57	+ 1.28	..
Property Fund	419.32	441.39	- 0.35	..
Fixed Interest	357.31	376.12	+ 1.33	...
Cash Fund	303.23	319.19	+ 0.23	...
Managed Inv	574.66	604.91	+ 5.76	...
Nth Amer Recov	338.79	356.63	+14.06	..
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	544.03	572.67	+ 2.02	...
BRITANNIA 50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR 0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	200.30	211.80	+ 0.80	.
Performance Plus	225.70	238.80	+ 2.20	...
With Profit Perf	185.70	196.50	+ 0.10	..

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	244.10	258.30	+ 1.00	...
Euro Opportunity	273.40	289.20	+ 1.00	...
North Amer Opp	227.30	240.60	- 1.40	...
Far East Opp	216.60	229.20	+ 2.60	...
Cwth Prop Ser 1	175.60	184.90	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	203.20	218.20	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int	225.40	238.50	+ 1.10	...
Cash	169.70	179.40	...	6.49
Overseas	260.10	275.20	+ 2.50	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	420.10	442.30	+ 2.60	...
UK Equity	734.70	773.40	- 1.20	...
Property	284.60	299.60	+ 0.30	...
Money Market	268.90	283.10	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	327.50	344.80	+ 1.60	...
Japan	358.90	377.80	+ 5.10	...
North America	203.30	214.00	- 0.30	...
International	402.40	423.60	+ 4.40	...
European	351.00	369.50	+ 2.80	...
Far East	160.20	168.70	+ 1.70	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth ‡	282.80	...	...	...
Managed	396.50	417.40	+ 1.50	...
Property	255.20	268.70	+ 0.10	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	267.40	281.50	- 0.20	..
Equity	466.50	491.10	...	...
Cash	229.40	341.50		...
C'Life Euro Mgd	456.00	480.00	+ 4.90	...
CLife Intl Fd	407.20	428.70	+ 7.70	...
Managed Fund	853.70	898.60	+ 7.10	..
Property Fund	551.50	580.50	+ 0.60	...
Equity Fund	1142.50	1202.60	+ 9.60	...
Gilt Edged Fd	681.10	716.90	+ 2.20	...
Deposit Fund	355.40	374.10	+ 0.20	...
Investment Fd	507.80	530.20	+ 4.30	...
International	633.70	667.10	+10.50	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	168.80	177.70	...	...
Managed Fund	747.10	786.50	+ 7.50	...
Equity Fund	443.20	466.60	+ 3.50	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	340.60	358.60	- 0.80	...
Ruby	300.50	314.30	- 0.30	...
Emerald	157.10	165.40	+ 0.40	...
Equity	399.00	420.00	- 0.40	...
Property	237.80	250.40	+ 0.30	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	226.10	238.00	+ 0.80	...
Indexed Secs	181.40	191.00	+ 0.80	...
Cash	201.50	212.20	+ 0.30	...
Nth American	297.00	312.70	+ 4.20	...
Far East	352.60	371.20	+ 3.90	...
International	281.50	296.40	+ 2.80	...
Special Sits	440.60	463.80	- 6.50	...
Intl Income	351.70	370.30	+ 2.00	...
European	401.40	422.60	+ 3.60	...
Japanese	141.50	149.00	+ 2.60	...
SE Asia	403.70	425.00	+ 0.90	...
With Profits Reg	184.10	193.80	+ 0.20	...
-do- Spec	184.10	193.80	+ 0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	401.00	422.20	+ 3.40	...
Equity	498.20	524.50	+ 4.00	...
Property	220.40	232.10	+ 0.20	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	291.10	306.50	+ 1.10	...
Index Linked	193.50	203.70	+ 0.70	...
Cash	275.70	290.30	+ 0.40	...
Nth American	370.60	390.20	+ 5.90	...
Far East Acc	338.10	355.90	+ 5.20	..
International Acc	357.70	376.60	+ 4.40	...
Special Sits	673.90	709.40	..	...
European Flex	582.50	613.20	+ 6.40	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units): Key ‡	242.65	...	...	...
-do- Pacemaker ‡	363.58	...	...	...
-do- Cash	215.94	227.31	+ 0.16	...
-do- Equity	655.88	690.40	+ 4.82	...
-do- Fxd Int	395.64	416.46	+ 2.15	...
-do- Managed	468.23	492.87	+ 3.26	...
-do- Property	332.31	349.80	+ 1.34	...
(Pens): Cash Cap	214.34	225.64	+ 0.06	..
-do- Cash Inv	334.15	351.75	+ 0.33	...
-do- Equity Cap	£17.22	£18.13	+13.82	...
-do- Equity Inv	£26.85	£28.26	+23.44	...
-do- Fixed Cap	426.95	449.43	+ 2.68	...
-do- Fixed Inv	665.59	700.63	+ 4.66	...
-do- Index Cap	207.90	218.85	+ 0.85	...
-do- Index Inv	324.10	341.16	+ 1.55	...
-do- Mngd Cap	683.29	719.27	+ 5.58	...
-do- Mngd Inv	£10.65	£11.21	+ 9.44	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) ‡	909.17	...	+10.44	...
Var Ann (5) ‡	107.93	...	+ 0.63	.
Prime: Managed	475.60	500.70	+ 0.70	...
Prime: UK Equity	600.50	632.20	+ 0.70	...
Prime: Int Equity	339.40	357.30	- 1.50	...
Prime: Property	249.50	262.70	+ 0.20	...
Prime: Fxd Int	258.20	271.80	- 0.50	...
Prime Index-Lnk	182.40	192.00	+ 0.70	...
Prime: Cash	219.60	231.20	+ 0.20	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1279.80	1347.10	+ 0.70	...
Equity 11	1890.80	1990.30	-11.90	...
For Crown see Windsor				
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham. GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Ut With Pfts (5&6) ‡	108.30	...	+ 0.20	.
Secure (2) ‡	105.30	...	+ 0.10	...
Managed (3) ‡	114.70	...	+ 0.20	...
Equity Mngd (3) ‡	114.80	...	+ 0.30	...
Adventurous (3) ‡	109.30	.	+ 0.70	

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bristol & West (2) ‡	106.20	...	+ 0.10	...
Equity Mgd S1	284.60	299.60	+ 0.70	...
Managed S1	283.30	298.30	+ 0.50	...
Adventurous S1	230.20	242.40	+ 1.40	...
Managed (2)	189.70	199.70	+ 0.40	...
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) ‡	106.70	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2) ‡	104.60	...	+ 0.20	...
Managed (2) ‡	111.10	...	+ 0.30	...
Equity Mngd (2) ‡	112.40	...	+ 0.40	...
Adventurous (2) ‡	107.00	...	+ 0.80	...
Bristol & West (2) ‡	105.40	...	+ 0.10	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	353.40	366.20	+ 3.10	0.01
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	368.60	388.00	+ 2.90	...
UK Equity	505.40	532.10	+ 3.30	...
Stewardship	447.30	470.90	+ 1.20	...
Overseas Equity	342.20	360.30	+ 4.00	...
North American	199.10	209.60	+ 2.50	...
Pacific Basin	182.70	192.40	+ 2.40	...
European	303.00	319.00	+ 4.00	..
Property	184.20	193.90	+ 0.20	..
Fixed Interest	265.30	279.30	+ 1.40	...
Index Linked	181.60	191.20	+ 0.70	...
Cash	215.20	226.60	+ 0.20	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	595.70	627.00	+ 3.40	..
Managed	822.00	865.20	+ 7.50	...
Deposit	367.10	386.40	+ 0.20	..
Property	512.30	539.10	+ 0.60	..
American	543.70	572.30	+ 6.30	..
Australian	649.70	683.80	- 4.50	...
European	717.90	755.60	+10.00	...
Income Acc	902.80	950.30	+ 6.70	...
-do- Dist	504.50	531.00	+ 4.60	4.90
International	364.50	383.60	+ 4.10	...
Japan Smaller	457.90	482.00	- 4.90	...
Singapore & Mal	428.00	450.50	+ 8.80	...
Smaller Cos	507.50	534.20	+ 4.90	...
Tokyo Fund	653.50	687.80	+ 6.10	...
UK Equity	697.00	733.60	+ 6.80	...
CCM Vangd Mg	896.40	943.50	+ 6.60	..
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	335.30	353.00	+ 2.70	...
GT Plan Wwide	564.20	593.90	+ 4.60	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	796.10	796.10	+ 5.40	...
-do- Inv A	796.00	838.00	+ 5.70	...
UK Equity	491.00	516.90	+ 4.40	...
Gilt Plus	223.50	235.40	+ 0.70	...
Managed	359.10	378.10	+ 2.60	..
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	247.60	260.50	+ 1.30	...
Unitised Profit	155.20	163.40	+ 0.20	...
UK Equity	354.10	372.60	+ 1.20	...
Fixed Int	213.50	224.60	+ 0.90	...
Index-Linked	177.10	186.30	+ 0.40	...
Cash Deposit	185.90	195.60	+ 0.10	...
Property	183.60	193.20	- 0.20	...
International	196.10	206.40	+ 1.60	...
American	210.10	221.10	+ 1.30	..
Japan	232.90	245.10	- 3.90	...
Japan Smllr Cos	238.50	251.00	+ 4.00	...
European	217.30	228.70	+ 1.70	...
Pacific Fund	312.00	328.40	+ 4.70	...
Conv Life	150.40	158.20	+ 1.20	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	564.70	594.40	+ 3.10	...
Managed Initial	359.20	378.10	+ 1.80	...
Equity Ord	894.30	941.40	+ 3.00	...
Equity Init	568.90	598.80	+ 1.40	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	215.70	227.10	+ 0.50	..
I-Linked Gilt Init	143.30	150.80	+ 0.20	...
Oseas Equity Ord	440.70	463.90	+ 4.80	...
Oseas Equity Init	280.30	295.10	+ 2.90	...
Property Ord	281.60	296.40	+ 0.30	..
Property Init	179.10	188.50	...	...
Fixed Int Ord	311.90	328.30	+ 1.40	..
Fixed Int Init	198.40	208.80	+ 0.70	...
Deposit Ord	221.50	233.20	+ 0.30	...
Deposit Initial	140.90	148.30	...	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
ASI Prop Bds	858.40	894.20	...	...
Managed Initial	541.20	569.60	+ 3.90	...
-do- Acc	803.40	845.70	+ 6.20	...
Equity Initial	854	898.90	+ 5.80	...
-do- Acc	1267.80	1334.60	+ 9.20	...
Fixed Int Initial	462.70	487.10	+ 2.20	...
-do- Acc	687	723.20	+ 3.60	..
Intl Initial	516.80	544	+ 4.40	...
-do- Acc	767.30	807.70	+ 7.00	...
Nth Amer Initial	243.20	256	+ 3.20	...
-do- Acc	328.60	345.90	+ 4.50	..
Pacific Initial	239.80	252.40	+ 1.90	..
-do- Acc	321	337.90	+ 2.70	.
Property Initial	181.20	190.80	...	...
-do- Acc	268.70	282.80	...	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	164.90	173.60	+ 0.40	..
-do- Acc	222.80	234.50	+ 0.60	...
Deposit Initial	204.30	215.10	...	...
-do- Acc	303.30	319.30	+ 0.10	...
Euro Initial	125.10	131.70	+ 0.90	...
-do- Acc	156.20	164.50	+ 1.30	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611178				
Life Funds				
Foundation	30.08	31.66	+ 0.08	...
Balanced	30.30	31.89	+ 0.14	..
Opportunity	31.28	32.93	+ 0.15	..
Deposit	25.29	26.62	+ 0.01	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation	31.43	33.08	+ 0.10	...
Balanced	31.22	32.86	+ 0.21	..
Opportunity	32.44	34.15	+ 0.27	..
Deposit	25.88	27.24	+ 0.02	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840008				
Managed	200.70	211.20	+ 1.80	...
-do- Pens	256.10	269.50	+ 2.60	...
UK Equity	212.80	223.90	+ 1.10	...
-do- Pens	254.50	267.80	+ 1.70	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
2nd Euro Acc	184.20	193.90	+ 1.40	...
2nd Japan Acc	185.00	194.70	+ 2.80	...
2nd Intl Cr Bd Acc	176.90	186.20	+ 0.70	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	147.90	155.70	+ 0.60	...
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA				

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	353.30	372.70	+ 2.00	...
Fxd Interest Acc	265.90	280.50	+ 1.30	...
International Acc	279.50	294.90	+ 1.80	...
Managed Acc	250.60	264.40	+ 1.00	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Index Linked	212.80	224.10	+ 0.40	...
Deposit	209.40	220.60	+ 0.20	...
Managed	343.50	361.70	+ 0.10	...
Worldwide	140.50	148.00	- 0.90	...
Pen Worldwide	152.80	161.00	- 1.20	..

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	217.40	228.90	+ 2.70	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	821.70	865.10	+ 7.20	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	557.30	593.70	+11.80	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund ‡	628.60	...	+ 0.60	...
-do- Acc ‡	582.60	...	+ 0.50	...

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Grotand Amer	225 30	238 40	+ 4 40	0 14
Grotand Equity	296 70	304 30	+ 3.60	1.79
Grotand Euro	270 50	286.20†	+ 2 40	0.57
Grotand F Ipt Bal	132.30	137 10†	.	2.57
Grotand Gilt	75.63	78 13‡	+ 0.35	6.25
Grotand Japan	169.30	179 10	+ 1 80	.
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	679 60	723.00†	+ 6.00	2.60
General Inc	567.20	603.50†	+ 5.00	2.60
UK Growth Acc	464 20	493.90	+ 3.60	2.71
UK Growth Inc	304 80	324.30	+ 2.30	2.71
Higher Inc Acc	807.60	859.20	+ 6 70	4.20
Higher Inc Inc	440 50	468 70	+ 3.60	4.30
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	211 90	223 70†	+ 0.70	5.81
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	92.77	97 98†	+ 0 36	5.81
Nth America	384 00	406.60	+ 5.60	
Europe	360.90	384 00†	+ 3.50	0.36
Brit Excell	91 91	97.78	+ 0 77	2.89
Brit Fndntl Acc	115.50	122.90†	+ 0.40	4 83
Brit Fndntl Inc	77 24	82.18†	+ 0.28	4.83
Global Opps	106.30	113.10	+ 1 60	0.01
Balanced Acc	63.98	68 07	+ 0.49	2.76
Balanced Inc	60.53	64 40	+ 0.46	2.76
Japan Acc	46.01	48.95	+ 0 92	.
Pac Basin Acc	406.20	432.20	+ 3 40	0.98
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	129 40	137 30†	+ 0 70	7 11
High Inc Equity	185.50	198.40	+ 2.30	4.34
Worldwide Bond	284 70	302.00†	+ 1.50	4.87
American Growth	379.50	406 80	+ 5.80	0.71
Asian Pacific	327.80	350.60	+ 1.70	0.04
Assets & Earnings	313.50	335.30	+ 1 30	2.69
Euro Capital Acc	187 60	200.60	+ 2.60	0.79
Extra Inc	43.54	46.32†	+ 0.26	7.74
General	285.40	304 70†	+ 1.90	2.88
Global Opps	69.61	74.05	+ 0 70	0.54
Japan	118.00	126.20	+ 1.00	...
Managed Inc	48 35	51 44†	+ 0.07	4.67
Mastertrust	170.80	182.70	+ 1 50	1.00
US Emerging Cos	221 30	235 40	+ 9 40	
Ethical	82.62	87.89	+ 0.25	2.42
International	139.90	148 80	+ 1.60	0.29
Dividend & Growth	68 77	73.16	+ 0.62	4.20
Global Gwth & Sec	73.50	78.41	+ 0.07	2.39
Latin America	66.44	70.68	+ 1.65	.
Capital Reserve	145 30	145 30		4.82
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2365 00	2460 00	+ 2.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	61 27	63.61	+ 1.33	0.15
Emerging Mkts	74 61	78.67	+ 1.50	0.04
European	152 40	158 50	+ 1 40	
Exempt	1119 00	1188.00	+ 2.00	1.57
Extra Income #	46.18	49 45†	+ 0.16	6.58
Far East Emg Ecn	134 60	141 30	+ 1 70	0 44
Fixed Interest #	25.54	26 58†	+ 0.06	8.94
Fund Inv Tst	153.00	160 50	+ 1.20	9.57
Japan	182 10	193 30†	+ 2.50	
Latin American	62.10	64 76†	+ 1 33	0.75
Pacific	86 69	91 02	+ 1 17	0.29
Property Share	71 92	75 49	+ 0.04	2.35
UK Emerging Cos	72.56	78 43	+ 0.86	1.23
UK Growth	54 41	57 43	+ 0.35	2.04
Aber World Port #	83.29	84 88	+ 0.62	3.41
Ethical	78.59	81.74	+ 0.12	2.16
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.48	50.54†	+ 0.12	7.33
For AEGON see Matheson				
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5868				
Resid Property #	98.20	103 40	+ 0.20	5.30
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	91 64	97 23†	+ 0.05	2.25
Income Builder Inc	82.32	87.57	+ 0.56	4.19
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
Tel. dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	297 00	311 00	+ 0.10	2.99
Capital	510.20	545 40	+ 0.60	1.15
Balanced	837 80	895 60	+ 3.40	2.32
Accumulator	1612.00	1723 00†	+ 2.00	1.81
Income Trusts				
American Income	62 09	66 19†	+ 0.05	2.41
High Income	459 10	490.79†	+ 0.30	3.86
Equity Income	261 80	279 80	+ 0.10	3.97
High Yield	283 50	303 00	+ 0.50	3.96
Govt Securities	34 40	36.32†	+ 0.01	6.01
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	214 50	228 90†	+ 0.80	0.05
European Growth	54 75	58 30†	+ 0.51	0.07
International	190.70	203.26	+ 1.60	0.11
Japan	204 00	218 90	+ 2.50	
Pacific	416.90	445.60	+ 4.50	
Sec of America	535 10	633.70	+ 6 10	0.12
Wrlde Asset Val	56.83	60.60†	+ 0.42	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	646 70	691 30	+ 1 60	1.98
Comm & Gilt	50.02	52.53†	+ 0.26	3.96
Smaller Cos	212 10	226 70	+ 0.20	1.01
2nd Smaller Cos	297 36	315 10†	+ 0.30	0.86
Recovery	171 80	182.60†	+ 0.40	1.54
Met Min & Cdty	164 05	173 40	+ 1.90	0.17
Overs Earnings	430 30	460.50	+ 0.10	1.06
Technology	329 30	344 90	+ 8.10	
UK Special Sits	593.00	623.20†	+ 0.60	1.00
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Conctd Ovl Pers	120.10	124.70	+ 2.10	3.04
Foundtn Pers Pens	71 16	73.32	+ 0.84	1.44
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 600 0035				
Capital	85 13	90.56	+ 0.44	1.30
International	69 96	74 43	+ 1.56	
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	349.90	373.20†	+ 3.80	
Bond	118.00	124 10	+ 0.60	6.73
Brit Smlr Cos	120.70	128 40	+ 0.80	1.76
Conv & Gert #	70.66	75 17†	+ 0.17	5.21
Europe	292.20	309 70	+ 4.00	0.57
Euro Smlr Cos	127 50	135.30	+ 0.20	0.58
Income Gwth	374 00	397 90†	+ 1.50	4.77
Japan	318 40	338 29	+ 4.20	
Latin American	87 32	92.83	+ 1.73	0.76
Pacific	115.90	123.50	+ 1.29	0.97
UK Smlr Cos	60.61	64 48	+ 0.18	1.24
Japan Fd	667.90	687.50	+ 9.30	
Mngd Fd	206.90	219 70	+ 0.90	2.72
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Overs	375 40	397 00	+ 6.90	0.89
Capital Gwth	131 70	139.30	+ 2.50	2.38
Wrlde Opps	223.80	236.70	+ 4 10	0.86
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0181 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Brit Inv Fd Inc	437.30	456 70	+ 5.60	2.36
European Bd Inc	96 86	100.30	+ 0.62	6.72
Exempt	84.52	89.87	+ 0.78	2.79
500	516 60	563.70†	+ 1.00	2.35
General	329.20	351 70†	+ 2.60	2.51
Property	245.40	263.30	+ 0.50	5.20
Trustee	229 70	245.20	+ 1.80	2.33
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.90	100 90	+ 0.10	4.95
Distribution (3) #	113.20	113 80†	+ 0.60	6.05
Extra Income #	139 50	149.20	+ 1.70	4.70
Gilt & Fxd Int	57 97	60.00†	+ 0.31	7.93
Income #	593 80	634 50	+ 3 80	4.58
Income Builder #	69.34	73 96†	+ 0.59	5.33
Intl Income	71.82	76 40	+ 1 11	2.62
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	143.70	153.30†	+ 0.80	2
FTSE 100	102 10	108 70	+ 1 00	2.62
Leisure	181 70	194 30	+ 0.30	0.72
Recovery	503.30	538 30	+ 2.50	2.62
Smllr Cos Inc	59.47	63.77†	+ 0.24	2.27
Special Sits	399 30	427 00	+ 3.70	1.32
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	175 00	185 60	+ 1.70	0.16
F East Gwth Acc	284 10	302.60	+ 2.50	2.07
Far East Gwth	169.90	180.90	+ 1 60	2.07
Euro Gwth Inc	196.00	208 10†	+ 3.40	0.44
-do- Accum	213 10	226.30	+ 3.60	0.44
Japan	151.00	159.90	+ 2.00	.
-do- Accum	152.80	161.80	+ 2.10	
Japan Spec Sits	70 71	74.90	+ 0.59	
Worldwide	201 00	213 40	+ 2.80	0.46
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	135 30	143.00	+ 4 10	.
Amer Smllr Cos	171 70	184 60	+ 3.90	
Convertibles	60 12	64 44†	+ 0.31	4.60
Eastern	304 10	327.00	+ 8.40	0.30
Equity Income	99.76	106.20	+ 0.80	4.20
European Growth	363 90	387 40	+ 2.20	0.80
Europe	362.90	387 00	+ 6.10	0.80
German Growth	89.35	94 77	+ 0.31	0.50
Global Bond	71.07	74.78	+ 0.62	6.20
Global Growth	148.70	158.10	+ 2.30	0.40
Japan Growth	195.80	208.20	+ 1 90	
Japan Sunrise	163 20	173.50	+ 1 60	..
Korea Trust	62.58	67.75	+ 2.29	.
Portfolio	147.20	157.40†	+ 1 40	2.00
-do- Accum	279.00	298.40	+ 2.60	2.00
UK Growth	106.30	114.00	+ 1.20	2.80
UK Smaller Cos	100.80	109.20	+ 0.20	1 90
Select Managers	90.42	98.95	+ 0.85	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	91 03	96.84	+ 0.90	.
Special Oppor Inc	61 41	65.33†	+ 0.44	
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	143.38	151 73	+ 1.48	1.25
-do- Accum	165.22	174.83	+ 1.69	1.25
Smaller Cos	157 18	166.32	+ 0.21	0.71
Higher Yield #	57.78	61 14	+ 1.15	3.66
American Gth Inc	99.57	105.37†	+ 0.58	.
European Growth	167.45	177.20†	+ 2.81	0.02
-do- Accum	170.82	180 76	+ 2.86	0.02
Global Bond Inc #	26 97	27.93	+ 0.30	5.87
Mngd Ptflo Inc	53.22	56.30†	+ 0.31	1.45
-do- Accum	55.23	58.47	+ 0.71	1.45
Intl Spec Opps	167.25	176.98	+ 3.38	
Pacific Gth	146.27	154 78	+ 1.66	0.31
UK General #	96.41	102.02	+ 0.17	2.95
-do- Accum #	103.15	109.15	+ 0.19	2.95
Japan	59.15	62.59	+ 1.65	.
Gilt & Fixed Int #	99.77	103.39†	+ 0.88	8.27
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7210				
Short Dated Gilt	66.52	67.37	+ 0.01	6.45
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	191 59	201.50	+ 1.90	1.74
UK Growth	212.60	223.70†	+ 1.20	2.03
UK Income	149 50	157 40	+ 1 40	4.38
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	236 80	251 00	+ 1 50	1.58
-do- Income Dist	127.20	134 80	+ 1.30	3.71
-do- Accum	408.20	432.70	+ 4.00	3.71
Gilt & Fxd Int	40.75	42 63†	+ 0.22	6.35
Growth Units	256 10	273 80†	+ 2.10	2.04
Bond	173 80	182.90†	+ 0.80	7 10
Intl Growth	248 60	264 70	+ 3.30	0.18
North American	262 40	279.30	+ 5.90	0.18
Far East	309 10	330 60	+ 4 40	0.67
UK Smaller Cos	226.20	241.90	+ 1.90	0.96
European	97 73	103.60	+ 1.10	0.62
Japanese Growth	46 97	49.85	+ 0.48	.
High Income	218.10	233.08†	+ 3.60	4.30
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	223.00	236.70†	+ 3.40	
European Inc	95.83	101 61†	+ 1.38	0.62
Smaller Cos (4-1)	109.60	116.60†	+ 0.40	1.47
Growth	546 50	581 40†	+ 2.20	1.77
Income & Growth #	461.10	490.60	+ 2.40	3.87
-do- Accum #	697.00	741 50	+ 3.50	3.87
Japan & Gen	67.64	71.86	+ 0.67	.
Master Portfolio	£121 00	£125.04	+ 99.00	1.88
-do- Accum	£148 80	£153.78	+ 123.00	1.88
Special Sits	128 10	136.30	+ 0.60	1.78
High Yield	£15.09	£15.56	+ 8.00	4.28

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	102.51	109.37	+ 0.44	2.33
American Portfolio	124.57	132.26	+ 0.27	0.86
European Portfolio	135.44	144.21	+ 0.86	0.61
High Income	51.75	51.88†	+ 0.24	7.15
Japanese Portfolio	68.58	72.86	+ 0.86	..
Pacific Portfolio	157.53	169.39	+ 1.53	1.41
UK Equity	99.09	105.99	+ 0.25	2.99
UK Equity & Bd	58.17	61.65	+ 0.52	6.19
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	774.94	786.66	+ 13.21	4.25
Fxd Int Sec	155.00	155.62	+ 1.77	9.19
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	769.91	781.55	+ 8.82	4.28
Investment Acc	£35.10	£36.63	+ 49.49	..
Fixed Int Inc.	127.72	128.24	+ 0.97	9.05
Fixed Int Acc	227.53	228.45	+ 1.78	.
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	88.58	97.60	+ 1.49	3.87
Beck Bio-Tech	44.40	48.00	+ 1.16	
Accum Ethical Tst	188.17	197.60		0.43
City Fin Assets	85.03	89.29	+ 0.80	1.50
City Fin America	112.46	118.09	+ 0.56	.
City Fin Intl	92.14	98.78	+ 0.48	0.44
City Fin Japan	147.26	154.84	+ 0.38	.
Friars Hse Cap	328.77	349.76	+ 5.54	2.42
Friars Hse Inc	206.00	219.15	+ 5.06	3.44
Buckley Wrld Gth	145.26	153.88†	+ 1.54	
J Sif Inc/Gth Inc	56.07	58.88	+ 0.56	3.27
Shaw Utilities	58.08	59.11	+ 0.24	6.16
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	58.15	61.70†	+ 0.66	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	82.47	87.73	+ 2.13	
Dragon Growth	73.08	78.16	+ 0.92	0.44
Equity High Inc	89.96	95.32†	+ 0.72	4.05
-do- Accum	130.21	139.42	+ 1.02	4.05
Extra Income Inc	26.47	27.88	+ 0.11	7.53
Extra Income Acc	28.70	30.21	+ 0.13	7.53
European Gwth	63.85	67.85	+ 0.83	0.98
Evergreen	32.27	34.51	+ 0.17	
General Equity	105.21	111.83	+ 0.58	2.90
Japan Growth	49.78	52.95	+ 0.62	
Pedigree Gwth	65.38	69.55	+ 0.21	2.21
Pnl Sm Cos Inc	39.09	41.59	+ 0.27	1.42
-do- Accum	41.42	44.06	+ 0.29	1.42
Retirement Inc #	28.19	29.99	+ 0.30	5.70
Special Sits	47.70	50.74	+ 0.25	2.33
UK & Overseas	60.25	63.93	+ 0.78	0.71
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	69.80	72.73†	+ 0.59	3.95
Capital	84.52	88.04†	+ 0.71	2.23
High Income	51.19	53.32†	+ 0.35	7.11
Top 50	56.99	59.36†	+ 0.65	2.06
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	199.84	208.17	+ 1.72	4.41
Long Gilt	42.78	44.53	+ 0.23	6.35
Monthly Inc Plus	49.15	51.20	+ 0.28	8.75
Preference Share	47.04	49.00	+ 0.75	7.96
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	145.97	152.05	+ 4.38	5.61
Managed Fund	78.73	82.01	+ 0.51	2.62
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	53.65	55.89	+ 0.06	1.70
-do- Accum	63.41	66.05	+ 0.08	1.70
UK & General	99.29	103.43	+ 0.69	2.49
-do- Accum	128.78	134.15	+ 0.90	2.49
UK Growth	197.83	206.07	+ 1.76	1.36
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	213.98	222.90	+ 1.11	0.65
Far Eastern Gth	138.33	144.09	+ 1.69	0.02
Global Bond	82.31	85.74	+ 0.30	5.78
Japan Growth	114.65	119.43	+ 2.28	
North Amer Gth	240.32	250.33	+ 1.58	.
Oriental Growth	86.11	89.70	+ 0.73	0.26
Worldwide Growth	74.86	77.98	+ 0.78	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.27	93.27	+ 0.06	5.12
Homemaker Fund	93.43	99.39	+ 2.07	1.52
Quilter Fund	157.42	167.47†	+ 1.30	1.86
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	35.96	38.45†	+ 0.11	4.32
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	179.70	191.20	+ 0.30	1.79
Income	72.20	76.87	+ 0.18	4.72
European	75.59	80.40	+ 0.34	0.81
Recovery	188.20	200.20	+ 1.40	2.06
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	1003.60	1019.10	+ 25.10	3.29
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 680 370				
Fellowship Tst	112.60	119.70†	+ 0.90	1.15
Income #	293.10	311.80	+ 1.70	4.06
-do- Accum #	787.20	816.10	+ 4.50	4.06
Smaller Cos	239.10	254.30	+ 0.70	0.85
-do- Accum	296.80	315.70	+ 0.90	0.85
Gilt Portfolio	103.40	110.00†	+ 0.40	1.29
High Inc Port #	84.44	89.82†	+ 0.62	4.23
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1634				
Euro Small Cos	1680.60	1737.30	+ 3.80	.
Japan Small Cos	1228.20	1252.90	+ 28.50	0.01
UK Small Cos	2227.70	2317.70	+ 10.10	2.85
US Small Cos	2173.30	2218.90	+ 2.00	0.84
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	231.20	243.40	+ 1.60	3.06
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	173.10	184.10	+ 1.50	1.75
UK High Inc Inc	180.70	192.20	+ 1.40	3.71
-do- Accum	244.20	259.70	+ 2.10	3.71
UK Pref & F I Inc	59.06	62.66	+ 0.28	5.90
Environmtl Opps	99.36	105.70	+ 1.30	0.95
UK Smlr Cos #	70.25	74.74	+ 0.40	0.80
Extra Income Inc	48.46	51.55†	+ 0.30	8.15
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 528				
American	177.80	188.30	+ 1.70	0.43
Convertibles #	22.93	24.38†	+ 0.16	5.75
Equity Income #	143.90	152.90†	+ 0.50	3.92
EuroFund	63.84	67.92	+ 0.30	0.59
Financial	55.87	59.36†	+ 0.64	1.52
Growth & Inc #	291.20	309.40†	+ 0.70	2.83
High Dist. #	182.20	193.60	+ 0.60	4.08
International	444.30	472.10	+ 2.50	0.17
Int Cap Inc	106.10	113.30	+ 1.10	2.38
Latin American	33.93	36.05†	+ 0.60	
Pacific	82.70	87.87	+ 0.71	..
Prof High Inc	72.15	73.53	+ 0.10	7.65
Tokyo	222.10	235.10†	+ 4.60	.
UK Smaller Cos	260.20	276.50	+ 0.70	1.08
Dunedin Unit Trusts				
European Gwth	337.40	356.80	+ 4.00	1.01
New Asia	227.40	242.00		0.24
Japan Growth	107.00	113.60		.
Jap Smllr Co	449.70	477.20	+ 7.40	.
Nth Amer	426.20	450.60	+ 9.50	0.65
UK Inc & Grth	255.00	272.90	+ 2.80	2.72
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
Brit Director Dgs	119.74	128.06	+ 1.81	1.15
Growth Acc	258.07	275.58	.	0.39
Income	614.14	656.83	+ 11.45	5.96
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7281				
Endurance Fd	229.30	243.90	+ 1.80	0.89
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	92.08	96.93	+ 0.18	2.00
Ethical Tst	49.12	51.71	+ 0.53	0.81
Far Eastern	308.55	324.79	+ 4.14	1.59
High Income	141.49	148.94	+ 0.05	4.87
UK Index Trckng	51.22	53.92†	+ 0.03	3.23
Intl Growth	146.63	154.35	+ 0.13	0.47
North American	149.45	157.32†	+ 1.01	1.87
Pelican	143.96	151.54	+ 0.15	3.12
Smaller Cos	73.65	77.53	+ 0.33	2.77
Special Sits	92.54	97.41†	+ 0.38	2.38
Tst of Inv Tsts	218.48	229.98†	+ 1.48	1.22
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Smaller Cos Inc	240.96	256.34	+ 0.53	1.46
Smaller Cos Acc	429.42	456.83	+ 0.96	1.45
Recovery	59.60	63.40	+ 0.05	1.67
Recovery Acc	61.59	66.52	+ 0.03	1.67
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	90.07	95.59	+ 1.95	
Fd of Inv Tsts	52.86	56.17	+ 0.39	0.52
High Income #	38.87	41.59	+ 0.30	11.06
Managed	48.15	52.34†	+ 0.44	.
Zero Preference	44.36	47.70	+ 0.89	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	93.63	99.60	+ 0.84	2.57
United Charities	313.90	333.80	+ 1.70	2.37
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	..	5.20
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	29.11	30.19	+ 0.19	5.16
Strategic Inc	26.78	28.00†	+ 0.01	5.80
Income Funds				
High Income	26.57	27.88†	+ 0.13	5.53
Income Plus	130.80	139.10†	+ 0.78	3.95
European Income	49.86	53.03	+ 0.51	2.56
UK Dly Gth	31.38	33.37†	+ 0.04	2.24
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	65.43	69.80	+ 1.87	
American	325.10	344.60	+ 5.20	...
Amer Spec Sits	187.50	200.00	+ 5.60	
Japan Smaller Cos	34.76	37.01	+ 0.31	.
European	228.80	243.30	+ 1.30	0.56
European Opps	80.96	86.09	+ 0.82	0.07
Global Ptfo	31.07	33.04	+ 0.24	0.34
UK Growth	122.40	130.30†	+ 0.40	1.50
Growth & Inc	177.60	188.90	+ 0.20	2.46
Intl PEP	48.11	51.16	+ 0.36	1.07
Japan Spec Sits	90.79	96.45	+ 1.22	
Japan	179.60	190.60	+ 1.90	.
Managed Intl	354.60	376.20	+ 5.40	0.50
Moneybuilder	67.49	71.77	+ 0.53	.
Recovery	62.57	66.53	+ 0.02	1.62
South E Asia	184.80	197.20†	+ 2.80	0.98
Special Sits	731.50	777.80†	+ 0.80	0.59
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	115.85	115.85	+ 0.09	5.20
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	152.00	154.80†	+ 2.30	1.54
Int. Ptflio #	98.42	98.13†	+ 0.30	2.82
Cap Ptflio	165.70	168.20	+ 0.90	0.85
General Opps	145.10	146.70	+ 1.98	3.99
Growth Inc	37.80	38.47	+ 0.37	0.95
Private Portfolio	493.20	502.00†	+ 8.70	0.88
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 386 Admin/Val 01277 690 358				
Euro Smllr Cos	153.00	162.90†	+ 1.50	0.38
Emrg Aston	145.00	156.60	+ 1.20	
High Income	21.43	22.70†	+ 0.11	9.89
UK Income	115.50	123.20	+ 1.20	4.01
US Smaller Cos	432.40	460.80	+ 2.50	
For Foster & Braithwaite see Dalkas				

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775611				
American Growth	80.83	86.04	+ 1.93	
-do- Accum	80.83	86.04	+ 1.93	.
Amer Smllr Cos	710.50	759.90†	+ 19.20	.
-do- Accum	725.80	776.30†	+ 19.50	.
Capital Tst	397.40	422.60†	+ 2.80	1.50
-do- Accum	583.80	621.10†	+ 0.70	1.50
Contl Smllr Cos	62.11	68.11	+ 0.46	1.09
-do- Accum	66.08	70.34	+ 0.50	1.09
Convertible	144.30	153.50	+ 1.00	5.60
-do- Accum	312.40	332.30	+ 2.00	5.60
Emerging Markets	68.55	73.24	+ 1.03	0.30
-do- Accum	68.80	73.50	+ 1.04	0.30
European	152.30	161.40	+ 1.20	0.90
-do- Accum	161.40	171.00	+ 1.30	0.90
Extra Income	389.60	414.50	+ 2.30	4.45
-do- Accum	620.30	659.90	+ 3.60	4.45
Financial	173.80	184.90	+ 1.50	0.46
-do- Accum	184.70	196.50	+ 1.70	0.46
Gilt Trust	64.87	66.88	+ 0.06	6.79
-do- Accum	98.24	101.30	+ 0.10	6.79
Health Fund Inc	265.00	283.10	+ 2.60	...
-do- Accum	265.00	283.10	+ 2.60	.
Income & Growth	231.90	246.78	+ 0.19	3.61
-do- Accum	367.40	390.90	+ 0.30	3.61
Intl Growth	445.60	474.00	+ 6.30	.
-do- Accum	494.80	526.30	+ 6.90	
Japan & Gen	171.70	182.50	+ 2.50	
-do- Accum	173.40	184.30	+ 2.50	...
Monthly Inc #	196.50	209.00†	+ 0.39	4.38
Managed Port Inc	123.10	129.60	+ 0.60	1.38
-do- Accum	133.90	140.90	+ 0.90	1.38
Quarterly Income #	57.49	61.62†	+ 0.39	4.91
-do- Accum #	65.94	70.80†	+ 0.46	4.91
Recovery	357.70	382.60	+ 1.30	.
-do- Accum	422.30	451.70	+ 1.50	
UK Growth	66.88	71.15	+ 0.27	2.76
-do- Accum	72.52	77.15	+ 0.28	2.76
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 715835 Enq 01722 715834				
FP American	62.27	66.38	+ 0.89	0.51
FP Am Smllr Cos	214.10	228.30	+ 1.70	.
FP Asian Growth	285.30	304.30	+ 7.00	.
FP Australian	418.80	445.70†	+ 1.50	
FP Equity Dist	463.30	494.00	+ 3.60	2.45
-do- Accum	£10.21	£10.89	+ 8.00	2.45
FP Euro Gth	288.80	308.00	+ 4.40	.
-do- Accum	315.90	336.90	+ 4.70	.
FP Intl Bond	59.53	62.99†	+ 0.23	4.66
FP Intl Gth Dist	38.86	41.45	+ 0.57	0.15
-do- Accum	56.73	60.51	+ 0.81	0.15
FP Pac Basin Acc	223.10	237.90	+ 2.90	.
FP Income #	60.29	64.30	+ 0.56	5.05
-do- Accum #	210.60	224.60	+ 1.90	5.05
FP Jap Smllr Cos	304.50	324.80	+ 4.30	.
FP Monthly Dist #	76.03	81.09†	+ 0.48	5.28
FP Stlg Deposit	100.90	100.90	+ 0.10	5.05
FP Tokyo	82.48	87.97†	+ 0.98	.
FP UK Focus	43.34	46.22	+ 0.57	2.05
FP UK Growth	201.70	215.10	+ 2.70	2.19
-do- Accum #	406.50	433.60	+ 5.90	2.19
Stewardship Dist	435.60	464.60	+ 1.30	1.36
-do- Accum	546.10	582.50	+ 1.60	1.36
Stwdshp Inc Dist #	81.66	87.10†	+ 0.17	4.60
-do- Accum #	117.60	119.00	+ 0.20	4.60
N Am Stshp Dist	127.50	136.00	+ 1.20	0.26
-do- Accum	137.00	146.10	+ 1.30	0.26
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	129.70	137.90	+ 1.80	1.56
Open Cap Gth Acc	133.00	141.40	+ 1.70	0.22
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	120.10	127.70†	+ 1.30	3.40
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	127.20	135.30	+ 1.30	3.40
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	122.60	129.70†	+ 1.40	3.73
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	130.20	138.50	+ 1.50	3.73
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 108/7				
GANDA	294.10	311.10	+ 1.20	1.98
Cash	49.52	50.26	+ 0.03	5.29
Growth Portfolio	88.94	94.27	+ 0.68	0.87
Income Portfolio	70.16	74.19	+ 0.24	4.15
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD				
0171 236 6441				
Special Sits	235.20	251.60	+ 1.20	1.05
Dividend	97.99	104.80	+ 0.80	4.08
Intl Gth & Inc	254.30	272.00	+ 3.80	3.17
UK & Gen	50.97	54.51†	+ 0.35	2.67
Fund of Funds	75.44	80.68†	+ 0.94	
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
American Smlr Cos	257.60	275.50	+ 8.40	0.12
European Gth	742.60	793.60	+ 11.00	0.60
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	56.00	59.31	+ 0.65	4.79
-do- Accum	62.15	65.82	+ 0.73	4.79
Far East & Gen	271.40	290.30	+ 2.60	
German Growth	145.80	154.50	+ 2.70	
High Yield #	49.36	52.16†	+ 0.46	8.03
-do- Accum #	54.39	57.47	+ 0.51	8.03
Income Inc	196.80	210.50†	+ 1.70	4.08
-do- Accum	224.90	240.60	+ 2.00	4.08
International	388.80	415.50	+ 3.50	0.30
Intl Income	94.96	100.60	+ 0.60	2.95
Japan Growth	440.90	468.40	+ 2.80	
Korean Securities	50.88	54.47	+ 3.23	.
Orient Acc	192.50	205.90	+ 3.60	0.15
UK General Inc	201.80	215.90†	+ 0.80	1.53
UK General Acc	360.70	385.80	+ 1.40	1.53
UK Sm Cos Ow Acc	59.89	64.06	+ 0.05	1.81
UK Spec Sits	106.10	113.50	+ 1.10	1.14
US Growth	189.20	201.10	+ 0.90	..
Wrlde Spec Sits	163.30	174.00	+ 1.10	.
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	60.96	65.11†	+ 0.12	1.78
Cash Trust	146.12	146.12†	+ 0.11	5.18
Practical Inv Inc #	122.89	131.43†	+ 2.27	3.66
-do- Accum #	297.31	317.98†	+ 2.68	3.66
UK Index	180.43	181.34†	+ 1.29	3.28
UK Smaller Cos	202.21	216.27	+ 0.07	0.54
Income Funds				
Euro Yield	24.58	25.45	+ 0.13	7.39
High Income	34.34	36.62†	+ 0.31	4.97
UK Equity Income	160.97	172.35†	+ 0.72	3.05
Global Bond	29.62	30.71†	+ 0.20	4.95
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	48.03	51.37	+ 0.80	
Global Managed	153.56	163.17	+ 1.93	1.41
Gold & Intl Res	111.74	119.51	+ 0.21	
Global Utilities	145.46	155.09	+ 1.91	1.41
Overseas Funds				
American	205.49	218.02	+ 4.53	0.72
European	137.88	146.07	+ 1.55	0.81
Euro Sel Opps	208.42	220.96†	+ 2.21	.
Amer Emerging	192.80	205.95	+ 7.20	.
Hong Kong	166.13	176.61	+ 3.92	1.61
Japan	241.34	256.26	+ 3.51	...
Pacific Growth	227.75	243.58	+ 3.10	..
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Managed Equity	264.14	264.14	+ 1.75	1.92
Long Term Bal	282.78	282.78	+ 1.82	2.94
Med Term Bal	231.41	231.41	+ 1.23	2.82
UK Equity	310.83	310.83	+ 1.78	2.39
UK Emerging Cos	181.81	181.81	+ 0.20	1.91
American	324.31	324.31†	+ 3.99	0.68
Japan	132.72	131.72†	+ 0.61	.
European	353.12	353.12†	+ 4.16	1.01
Index Linked Gilt	183.95	183.95†	+ 0.79	2.72
Fixed Interest	175.00	175.00†	+ 1.01	6.37
Amer Emerging	426.98	426.98†	+ 11.81	.
Pacific	239.59	239.59	+ 1.93	0.88
Emerging Mkts	127.95	127.95†	+ 1.75	0.52
Index Strat Japan	148.15	148.15	+ 2.80	0.21
-do- Pacific Rim	208.77	208.77	+ 2.61	1.17
-do- Cont Europe	188.46	188.46	+ 1.44	1.88
Index Strat USA	192.35	192.35	+ 4.05	1.64
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	124.61	132.56	+ 0.88	..
Med Term Bal	110.41	117.45	+ 0.62	.
Long Term Bal	127.34	135.46	+ 2.49	.
UK Equity	144.30	153.50	+ 0.87	.
UK Emerging Cos	85.40	90.85	+ 0.10	
American	150.96	160.60	+ 2.89	.
Japan	63.44	67.48	+ 0.83	.
European	146.56	155.91	+ 1.84	.
Fixed Interest	89.80	95.53	+ 0.55	.
Index Linked Gilt	81.84	87.06	+ 0.37	..
Deposit	87.54	93.12	+ 0.07	..
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWH Intl	162.23	170.77†	+ 1.71	0.50
Brcln Gth Port Inc	74.95	79.10†	+ 0.81	0.80
-do- Inc Port Inc	83.72	87.25	+ 0.37	3.50
-do- Wrlde Port	62.95	66.44	+ 1.04	0.10
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Stlg & Intl Inc	611.68	650.72	+ 1.15	1.15
-do- Accum	690.77	734.86	+ 1.30	1.15
European Inc	179.96	191.07	+ 0.82	1.47
Analgam Inc	158.53	168.05	+ 1.89	.
N America Inc	420.64	447.49	+ 6.49	.
Far East Inc	375.56	405.12	+ 11.74	0.13
-do- Accum	389.23	419.87	+ 12.17	0.13
UK Dvrld Inc	217.87	231.78	+ 0.30	1.64
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MGMT LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
UK Equity Inc #	101.00	108.07	+ 0.15	4.56
UK Small Cos	68.38	73.13	+ 0.03	0.62
British Growth	69.24	74.04†	+ 0.42	3.11
American Gwth	287.28	307.24	+ 4.03	.
Japan Gwth	66.94	71.58	+ 0.13	
Greater China	200.21	214.11	+ 0.67	0.16
Pacific Strategy	163.93	175.32	+ 1.44	.
European Gwth	122.19	130.67	+ 1.68	.
Intl Growth	172.55	184.54	+ 2.76	.
US Index (X)	18.0452	19.0138	+ 0.18	4.00
FT-SE Mid 250 Ind	91.60	97.98†	+ 0.44	2.15
Monthly Income	41.74	44.51†	+ 0.05	8.61
Index & Bear Funds Dealing: 071 865 0033				
Grd UK Index (F)	15.4220	16.2812	+ 0.30	4.75
GRANVILLE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 488 1212				
Small Cos	116.14	123.55	+ 2.01	1.51
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD.				
0171 538 9868				
European	588.30	628.50	+ 5.70	0.43
Gilt & Fixed	128.20	135.90†	+ 0.80	5.85
Growth Equity	437.40	467.30	+ 1.90	1.24
Income Trust	151.80	162.10	+ 1.50	4.20
International	213.70	228.30†	+ 2.20	0.08
Japan Trust	122.90	131.30	+ 1.60	
Nth American	365.10	390.00	+ 5.60	
Pacific	592.90	633.40	+ 5.70	0.18
Guardhuf	647.90	692.30†	+ 0.50	1.24
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
EMU Trust	108.32	112.46	+ 0.86	5.63
Global High Inc	101.43	105.31	+ 0.90	6.10
Corporate Bond	105.09	109.08	+ 0.44	8.91
Eqty & Bond Inc	111.60	118.86	+ 0.91	5.46
European Growth	128.94	137.10	+ 0.89	.
Intl PEP Enus	70.82	75.30	+ 0.48	.
Equity Inc	137.01	145.67†	+ 0.89	4.13
-do- Accum	201.11	213.83	+ 1.32	4.13
Recovery	404.80	430.40	+ 2.00	1.52
-do- Accum	478.50	508.70	+ 2.30	1.52
St Vinc High Inc	127.02	128.92†	+ 1.08	7.57
UK Emerg Cos	314.30	334.20	+ 2.80	2.29
UK Smlr Cos	414.70	422.00	+ 1.90	2.52
Glen Priv Tst	119.07	126.61	+ 1.63	1.66
-do- Accum	121.63	129.32	+ 1.65	1.66
Inc Share Tst	87.68	93.21†	+ 1.17	9.32
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 0171 220 5050 01904 611110				
Balanced Inc	56.70	60.12	+ 0.02	3.43
Balanced Acc	60.39	63.94	+ 0.02	3.43
Growth	33.85	35.89†	+ 0.11	1.85
Growth Acc	35.01	37.12	+ 0.12	1.85
Income	32.15	34.09	+ 0.10	4.28
Income Acc	34.35	36.42	+ 0.11	4.28
Accumulation Tst	26.08	28.25	+ 0.15	3.02
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 390				
High Provider	99.65	103.30†	+ 0.40	6.59
Model Ptflo	245.50	257.50†	+ 2.20	2.55
HENDERSON TOUCHE REMNANT				
Enquiries: 0645 494949 Dealing: 0645 464646				
UK Funds				
UK Enterprise	367.35	393.06†	+ 0.83	0.84
Best of British	74.61	79.30	+ 0.77	2.12
UK Smaller Cos	159.24	171.18†	+ 0.57	1.21
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	312.19	332.48	+ 2.43	3.27
-do- Accum #	880.09	937.25	+ 6.86	3.27
High Income	344.14	367.87	+ 2.91	4.22
Extra Income #	288.06	306.35†	+ 2.41	5.80
Pref & Bond	46.65	50.28	+ 0.29	8.30
International				
Ethical	123.43	132.90†	+ 0.11	1.65
International	331.07	351.61	+ 3.35	.
Global Bond	55.86	59.03†	+ 0.33	5.62
Intl Pen Tst	101.74	108.27	+ 1.01	0.60
Global Tech	243.32	262.33	+ 11.38	
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	198.67	212.45	+ 2.92	0.03
European	629.97	667.92	+ 7.18	0.49
European Income #	92.89	98.46†	+ 1.38	3.14
Euro Smlr Cos	195.89	208.79	+ 1.40	0.90
European Value	95.93	102.34	+ 0.81	0.47
-do- Accum	103.20	110.10	+ 0.88	0.47
Japan Trust	227.54	241.75	+ 3.81	...
Japan Smlr Cos	235.06	250.28†	+ 4.37	..
Pacific Smlr Cos	247.58	263.76†	+ 4.38	.
North American	328.18	348.34	+ 5.34	...
American Smaller	184.79	197.36	+ 4.85	.
HIGH PEAK UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Income & Growth #	155.50	163.70†	+ 3.80	5.75
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0181 686 4355				
British	124.63	130.50	+ 0.83	1.97
Capital	207.10	216.86†	+ 1.82	1.26
Dollar	512.21	536.34	+ 11.48	.
Enterprise Gth	440.40	461.16†	+ 1.00	1.36
European	279.66	292.84	+ 3.48	0.54
Far East	317.88	332.86	+ 1.49	.
Financial	£10.31	£10.80†	+ 1.38	2.11
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	26.29	27.35	+ 0.11	8.80
High Yield #	112.47	117.77	+ 1.15	5.12
Income & Growth #	165.33	173.13	+ 1.74	3.78
International	299.86	313.99	+ 3.28	0.15
Japanese General	212.62	222.64	+ 1.66	
Japan Tech	91.26	95.56	+ 1.25	
Ntl Resources	85.72	89.75	+ 1.02	0.07
Portfolio	88.21	92.37	+ 0.81	1.88
Special Sits	213.55	223.61†	+ 0.42	0.03
UK Emerging Cos	133.27	139.55†	+ 0.90	0.72
US Smaller Cos	168.39	176.32	+ 4.29	
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 880 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	649.00	692.60	+ 6.20	5.45
UK Growth	738.10	787.70	+ 5.00	2.45
High Income #	115.40	123.20	+ 1.10	5.85
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	629.80	666.70	+ 12.90	0.28
European Gwth	146.90	156.20	+ 1.30	0.11
Japan Gwth	277.40	295.40	+ 3.40	
Japan Smllr Cos	34.05	36.34	+ 0.33	.
Asian	64.10	68.41	+ 1.13	0.17
Sing & Malay Gwth	87.56	93.45	+ 1.58	...
Hong Kong Gwth	143.80	153.50	+ 3.00	1.26
Global Bond	22.47	23.72	+ 0.11	5.15
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	170.18	171.00	+ 1.10	3.35
Tdain Index	130.00	133.30†	+ 0.10	2.79
THE FOOTSIE FUND	66.14	66.47	+ 0.70	2.87
Index Funds-International				
American Index	287.90	289.30	+ 4.90	0.97
Eurotrack 100	198.90	199.90	+ 1.90	1.41
Japan Index	79.08	79.48	+ 1.34	0.07
Tiger Index	206.40	207.40†	+ 1.20	
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	49.97	52.03†	+ 0.24	0.85
General Funds				
Managed Dist	90.69	94.42	+ 0.99	1.13
Managed	93.17	97.00	+ 1.02	1.13
Rupert Child Fnd	104.20	108.50	+ 1.40	2.28
UK Growth	72.43	75.41	+ 0.68	1.95
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	88.04	91.66†	+ 0.69	5.65
Gilt & Fixed Int #	26.62	27.48†	+ 0.34	8.06
UK Inc & Gwth	49.12	51.14	+ 0.14	2.96
UK Income #	381.50	397.20	+ 3.30	4.09
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	64.45	66.79†	+ 1.09	0.11
Amer Smllr Cos	172.10	179.20	+ 7.90	.
-do- Accum	173.90	181.10	+ 7.90	.
Europe Gth	235.40	244.80†	+ 3.30	
-do- Accum	243.90	253.50†	+ 3.40	
Euro Smaller Cos	45.63	47.48	+ 0.90	
French Growth	97.05	100.80	+ 0.30	0.33
-do- Accum	104.90	109.00	+ 0.40	0.33
H Kong & China	96.78	100.60	+ 1.20	1.27
Intl Growth	69.49	72.32	+ 0.82	0.17
-do- Accum	70.46	73.33	+ 0.84	0.17
Japan Gth	32.12	33.42	+ 0.35	.
-do- Accum	32.12	33.42	+ 0.35	
Japan Smaller Cos	40.04	41.69†	+ 8.52	
Glob Emg Mkts	97.47	101.50	+ 1.10	.
-do- Accum	98.16	102.20†	+ 1.10	0.11
SE Asia	348.00	362.30	+ 1.50	0.17
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	53.74	55.36†	+ 0.20	6.04
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 261010				
Sector Value Inc #	105.70	111.30	+ 0.90	3.72
Sector Value Gwth	106.80	112.40	+ 1.10	2.13
Hy 5 Europe	101.70	106.60	+ 1.20	2.76
Slater Gwth	165.70	174.90	+ 1.70	0.66
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	206.90	220.00	+ 2.60	
Income #	213.21	226.81	+ 0.85	4.28
UK Growth	85.71	91.18	+ 0.07	1.99
Intl Growth	88.07	93.68†	+ 0.13	0.45
Ecology	105.97	112.73	+ 1.59	0.86
European	202.88	215.82	+ 2.54	0.57
Far Eastern	311.90	331.80	+ 4.30	.
UK Special Sits	51.60	55.03	+ 0.73	

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	98.74	103.20†	+ 0.50	7.22
Gilt Yield	117.80	124.30†	+ 0.30	6.82
Global Income	236.90	252.00†	+ 2.30	3.54
High Yield	155.50	165.40	+ 0.30	5.42
-do- Accum	506.10	538.40	+ 1.20	5.42
Smllr Cos Div	63.22	67.26†	+ 0.14	3.29
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	160.60	170.90	+ 3.60	...
Asian Growth	338.30	359.80	+ 3.60	0.23
-do- Accum	397.50	422.90	+ 4.40	0.23
North American	110.90	118.00	+ 1.70	0.22
European Special	128.60	136.80	+ 1.50	1.22
European	182.40	194.00	+ 0.50	0.46
-do- Accum	241.40	256.80	+ 0.80	0.46
Global Eqty Inc	122.50	129.90†	+ 1.00	1.90
Japan	410.60	436.80	+ 7.50	.
Japanese Special	237.30	246.10	+ 3.10	
Smaller Cos	145.60	156.00	+ 0.10	1.04
UK Equity Growth	51.72	55.02†	+ 0.68	1.82
UK Index Inc	343.70	345.40	+ 1.00	3.24
Bircham Tst	109.70	118.00†	+ 2.80	1.95
-do- Accum	111.30	119.70†	+ 2.80	1.95
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 407 5966				
Bridge Income	306.81	326.39	+ 3.18	4.74
Inc & Growth Inc	67.44	71.74	+ 1.05	3.86
Smaller Cos	90.03	95.78	+ 0.58	1.12
LAURENTIAN UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 01452 371 500 Dlg: 01452 371 623				
Growth Trust	299.90	319.00	+ 1.20	2.56
High Income	117.30	124.70	+ 1.50	4.96
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	463.60	492.10†	+ 3.00	2.27
UK Inc/Gth	479.30	508.50†	+ 2.10	3.82
UK Income	343.40	364.30†	+ 3.00	4.89
UK Sm Cos	313.40	335.20†	+ 1.00	1.51
Euro Gwth	166.00	176.10	+ 1.40	0.45
N Amer Gwth	127.20	135.00	+ 2.80	
Japan Growth	63.00	66.62	+ 0.64	
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 395				
Equity Dist @	587.70	587.70†	+ 4.90	2.75
-do- Accum @	£12.16	£12.16†	+ 10.00	2.75
Equity Income @ #	105.10	105.10	+ 0.90	5.03
UK Tactical Allocation @	67.51	67.51†	+ 0.65	3.91
European @	146.50	146.50†	+ 1.40	1.08
Far Eastern @	239.30	239.30†	+ 0.40	
Fixed Interest @	53.58	53.68†	+ 0.26	7.45
Gilt @	91.95	91.95	+ 0.39	6.63
Global Growth @	85.78	85.78	+ 0.33	0.21
Intl Bond @	54.04	54.04†	+ 0.29	5.18
Japanese @	73.55	73.55	+ 0.83	
North American @	222.70	222.70	+ 5.00	0.81
Pacific Growth @	123.70	123.70†	+ 0.70	0.20
UK Index @	78.36	78.36	+ 0.56	3.19
UK Recovery @	119.60	119.60	+ 2.10	2.09
UK Smaller Cos @	163.40	163.40	+ 0.40	1.24
US Index @	84.90	84.90	+ 1.58	1.35
European Index @	91.91	91.91†	+ 0.66	1.73
Japan Index @	40.58	40.58	+ 0.70	
Worldwide @	100.90	100.90	+ 0.90	1.41
LINCOLN FUND MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 623				
Growth	57.15	61.12	+ 0.42	2.24
Income	66.06	70.65	+ 0.42	4.11
Far East	55.85	59.73	+ 1.38	0.08
North American	136.10	145.50	+ 1.90	..
Global	109.50	117.10	+ 1.90	0.39
European	97.25	104.00	+ 1.40	1.03
Japan	103.80	110.80†	+ 1.60	
Intl Currency Bd	61.16	64.89	+ 0.29	4.27
SE Asia	112.40	120.20	+ 1.60	0.47
UK Cap Growth	104.30	111.50	+ 0.60	2.61
Recovery Trust	93.69	100.20	+ 0.22	1.22
Managed	78.01	83.43†	+ 0.61	1.21
Cash	51.17	51.17	+ 0.03	4.45
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk: 01634 834 339 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Balanced	414.70	441.20	+ 3.20	2.10
-do- Accum	980.40	£10.43	+ 8.00	2.10
Contl Euro Gth	82.68	87.04	+ 0.20	0.76
-do- Accum	88.98	93.67	+ 0.21	0.76
Extra Inc	285.80	304.10	+ 0.30	3.89
-do- Accum	782.40	832.40	+ 1.00	3.89
FTSE 100 Inc	122.10	129.90	+ 1.30	2.62
FTSE 100 Acc	127.40	135.60	+ 1.30	2.62
German Gth	141.90	149.40	+ 1.30	
-do- Accum	148.80	156.70	+ 1.40	
Growth Port	677.10	720.40†	+ 6.30	..
-do- Accum	705.60	750.70	+ 15.30	
High Interest Inc	97.97	100.60†	+ 0.64	7.75
High Interest Acc	182.90	186.70	+ 0.80	7.75
Hi Reserve Inc #	107.20	114.10†	+ 0.90	6.19
Hi Reserve Acc #	116.20	123.70	+ 1.00	6.19
Income	558.10	594.80	+ 6.90	3.14
-do- Accum	£15.76	£16.77	+ 30.00	3.14
Income Port	569.50	605.90	+ 9.00	4.22
-do- Accum	637.00	677.70	+ 10.10	4.22
Japan Growth	105.50	112.30		

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	105.90	112.70		
Master Trust	68.84	73.24	+ 0.65	1.38
-do- Accum	79.49	84.57	+ 0.65	1.38
Millennium Acc	96.67	102.00	+ 2.10	2.25
N American Gen	250.30	266.30	+ 5.60	
-do- Accum	289.70	308.20	+ 6.60	
Wkn Sm Co Rec	210.20	223.70	+ 6.00	
-do- Accum	214.60	228.30	+ 6.00	...
Pacific Basin	264.10	281.00	+ 4.50	0.23
-do- Accum	281.30	299.30	+ 4.80	0.23
Small Cos Rec	519.40	546.80	+ 11.50	1.53
-do- Accum	711.80	749.30	+ 16.20	1.53
UK Eq Gth	165.70	176.30†	+ 1.50	2.52
UK Eq Inc	132.10	140.60	+ 1.70	3.85
UK Growth	107.00	113.90	+ 0.70	1.75
-do- Accum	134.30	142.90	+ 0.90	1.75
Worldwide Gth	362.20	385.40	+ 3.40	0.34
-do- Accum	535.20	569.40	+ 5.00	0.34
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
American	89.61	95.96	+ 2.20	0.70
General	109.70	117.70	+ 1.36	2.60
Income	73.34	78.69†	+ 0.84	5.20
International	75.36	80.85	+ 1.05	0.50
Japan	58.04	62.27†	+ 0.57	
Tst of Inv Trusts	77.82	83.49	+ 0.60	1.00
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
Amer & General	528.60	558.40	+ 3.30	0.38
-do- Accum	661.60	698.90	+ 4.10	0.36
Amer Recovery	577.40	610.60	+ 10.90	0.30
-do- Accum	666.10	704.30	+ 12.60	0.30
Amer Smllr Cos	174.30	184.30	+ 8.20	..
-do- Accum	178.10	188.30	+ 8.40	
Australasian	205.40	217.20†	+ 1.30	2.35
-do- Accum	258.00	272.90†	+ 1.70	2.35
Capital	1001.00	1058.60†	+ 6.50	2.52
-do- Accum	1195.20	1264.00†	+ 7.80	2.52
Charifund	758.50	766.10	+ 7.40	5.94
-do- Accum	3882.50	3921.40	+ 37.80	5.94
Commodity	484.10	511.90	+ 5.10	0.28
-do- Accum	715.80	757.00	+ 7.60	0.28
Compound Gth	1122.00	1186.50	+ 2.20	2.80
-do- Accum	1224.00	1294.40	+ 3.60	2.80
Corporate Bond	25.07	25.15†	+ 0.20	7.60
Dividend	44.80	47.40	+ 0.40	4.62
-do- Accum	198.40	209.90	+ 1.70	4.62
Equity Income	331.70	350.80†	+ 0.90	5.50
-do- Accum	460.00	486.50†	+ 1.30	5.50
Euro & General	639.20	676.00	+ 10.10	0.35
-do- Accum	820.80	868.20	+ 13.00	0.35
Euro Dividend	80.20	84.80	+ 0.60	3.51
-do- Accum	102.10	108.00	+ 0.95	3.51
Extra Yield	458.90	485.30†	+ 3.80	5.10
-do- Accum	1552.10	1641.60†	+ 13.10	5.10
Fund of Inv Tsts	725.50	767.20	+ 5.50	2.21
-do- Accum	1392.50	1472.60	+ 10.60	2.21
General	69.70	73.70	+ 0.30	2.75
-do- Accum	205.29	217.10	+ 0.82	2.75
Gilt Income	60.92	61.01†	+ 0.45	7.03
-do- Accum	184.61	184.88†	+ 1.32	7.03
Gold	83.80	88.60	+ 0.50	
-do- Accum	100.20	106.00	+ 0.50	
High Income	33.30	35.20	+ 0.40	4.62
-do- Accum	142.20	150.30	+ 1.40	4.62
Intl Growth	91.80	97.10	+ 0.70	0.58
-do- Accum	162.40	172.00	+ 1.30	0.58
International Inc	112.90	119.40	+ 0.50	4.44
-do- Accum	175.40	185.40	+ 0.70	4.44
Japan & Gen	41.10	43.40	+ 0.60	
-do- Accum	44.10	46.50	+ 0.60	
Japan Smllr Cos	150.50	159.10	+ 2.10	.
-do- Accum	151.50	160.20	+ 2.10	
Managed Gwth	27.40	28.90	+ 0.22	1.57
Managed Income	29.80	31.30†	+ 0.20	4.13
Midland	63.40	67.00	+ 0.20	3.32
-do- Accum	220.00	232.60	+ 0.50	3.32
Pension Ex	1097.10	1124.60	+ 6.40	4.16
Recovery	48.70	51.50		2.55
-do- Accum	85.80	90.60	..	2.55
Second General	75.90	80.20	+ 0.50	3.11
-do- Accum	208.50	220.50	+ 1.30	3.11
Smaller Cos	70.60	74.70†	+ 0.72	2.34
-do- Accum	146.10	154.70†	+ 1.40	2.34
Sth East Asia	384.70	406.80†	+ 2.90	1.25
-do- Accum	515.20	544.90†	+ 2.50	1.25
Treasury	25.17	25.27	+ 0.02	5.44
Trustee	44.90	47.50	+ 0.50	4.13
-do- Accum	190.90	202.10	+ 2.20	4.13
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	101.59	108.07	+ 0.92	1.05
Intl Bond	65.07	69.19	+ 0.36	5.08
Intl Equity Growth	87.47	92.84	+ 1.17	0.74
N Amer Growth	138.73	147.47†	+ 2.68	0.31
Special Sits Growth	27.98	29.34†	+ 0.15	3.97
UK Growth	469.63	499.50	+ 3.45	2.47
-do- Accum	627.11	677.77	+ 4.65	2.47
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1434.20	£15.07	+ 13.30	2.90
Income #	1037.50	1053.30	+ 11.20	6.40
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	166.90	170.90†	..	4.63
For Manulife see Canada Life				

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
M & S Inv Ptflo	180.20	185.70	+ 0.90	2.52
-do- Accum	213.80	220.40	+ 1.10	2.52
UK Sel Ptflio	159.50	164.50	+ 0.40	2.52
-do- Accum	192.30	198.20	+ 0.30	2.52
UK 100 Cos	116.60	116.60†	+ 0.50	2.84
-do- Accum	118.80	118.80†	+ 0.60	2.84
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	72.72	77.30	+ 0.88	3.71
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4848				
Intl Income	83.59	88.74†	+ 0.96	3.66
European	107.60	114.20	+ 1.20	0.61
Income #	85.07	90.24†	+ 0.91	4.28
Nth American	98.33	104.40	+ 2.70	0.23
Far East	182.50	193.70	+ 2.10	0.08
Japan	62.37	66.21	+ 0.59	.
Emging Mkts	88.91	95.09	+ 1.42	..
Intl Growth	132.40	140.59	+ 2.40	0.84
UK Growth	127.90	135.80	+ 1.20	2.42
UK Smlr Co	82.68	86.54	+ 0.04	1.34
Asia Pacific	38.90	41.60	+ 0.86	0.30
Glob Gwth PEP	83.54	87.44	+ 1.21	1.20
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	105.30	112.10	+ 2.40	
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Income	465.30	495.00†	+ 5.48	4.48
Global Inc	73.66	78.36†	+ 0.36	4.19
Brit Leaders	398.31	423.73†	+ 2.97	3.47
Intl Leaders	232.51	247.35†	+ 2.44	1.36
PAM Mg Bal Grth	73.67	76.54†	+ 0.63	0.47
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	275.20	290.40	+ 2.70	
-do- Accum	294.30	310.50	+ 2.80	
American Opps	142.80	152.10	+ 5.10	
-do- Accum	144.60	154.10	+ 5.30	.
British Blue Chip	99.40	105.30	+ 1.20	2.28
-do- Accum	126.50	133.90	+ 1.40	2.28
Cash	100.80	100.80	+ 0.10	5.36
-do- Accum	148.00	148.00	+ 0.10	5.36
Emerging Mkts	130.90	140.70	+ 2.20	0.10
-do- Accum	132.50	142.50	+ 2.30	0.10
European Growth	333.40	353.39†	+ 3.98	0.13
-do- Accum	363.50	385.20†	+ 4.50	0.13
European Income	92.91	98.44	+ 0.24	2.92
-do- Accum	133.70	141.60	+ 0.40	2.92
General	626.30	665.00†	+ 3.80	1.86
-do- Accum	1281.00	1360.00†	+ 7.00	1.86
Global Bond	132.00	138.70†	+ 3.70	5.86
-do- Accum	175.30	184.10†	+ 6.60	5.86
Gold & General	239.80	257.00	+ 1.50	0.35
-do- Accum	248.10	265.90	+ 1.70	0.35
Govt Securities	93.96	96.88	+ 0.47	5.97
-do- Accum	197.00	203.10	+ 1.00	5.97
High Yield Bd	100.00	102.50†	+ 0.50	7.33
-do- Accum	106.20	108.90†	+ 0.60	7.33
Income	189.30	201.20†	+ 2.10	4.18
-do- Accum	315.10	337.70†	+ 3.60	4.18
Inc Portfolio #	113.50	120.00†	+ 0.10	4.77
-do- Accum #	123.80	130.90†	+ 1.20	4.77
Intl Opps	589.10	626.40	+ 7.50	0.14
-do- Accum	795.00	848.00	+ 10.00	0.14
Japan	172.50	183.90	+ 2.00	..
-do- Accum	177.10	188.80	+ 2.10	.
New Europe	242.10	258.20	+ 2.50	0.78
-do- Accum	251.90	268.70	+ 2.80	0.78
Pacific	117.40	125.20	+ 0.60	0.81
-do- Accum	126.50	134.90	+ 0.80	0.81
Recovery	458.60	489.10	+ 0.90	0.53
-do- Accum	601.80	641.90	+ 1.30	0.53
UK Smaller Cos	65.28	69.63†	+ 0.20	0.74
-do- Accum	75.38	80.41†	+ 0.24	0.74
Portfolio	95.02	100.60†	+ 0.20	2.29
-do- Accum	117.00	124.00†	+ 0.30	2.29
Managed Gth	123.90	129.50	+ 1.20	0.99
Managed Inc	121.50	126.00	+ 0.90	2.87
METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD				
01707 662 233				
Eurogrowth Plus	158.98	169.13	+ 1.78	0.14
Portfolio	81.68	86.89	+ 0.58	1.58
UK Income Inc	90.75	96.42†	+ 0.60	4.51
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126				
Balanced	70.20	73.51	+ 0.67	2.80
-do- Accum	76.88	80.50	+ 0.75	2.80
British Tst	107.00	112.00	+ 0.80	2.76
-do- Accum	128.00	134.00	+ 1.10	2.76
Corp Bond Inc	99.85	103.50	+ 0.30	6.96
-do- Accum	102.20	105.90	+ 0.40	6.98
Extra High Inc	70.96	74.30	+ 0.58	7.25
-do- Accum	149.70	156.80	+ 1.40	7.25
FT-SE 100 Acc	70.00	73.29	+ 0.76	2.77
FT-SE 100 Dist	66.03	69.14	+ 0.72	2.77
Gilt & Fxd Int	55.61	57.86†	+ 0.27	8.24
-do- Accum	177.20	184.30†	+ 0.60	8.24
High Yield	238.60	250.00	+ 1.90	4.62
-do- Accum	649.90	680.50	+ 5.20	4.62
Income	323.00	338.20	+ 2.90	4.82
-do- Accum	758.50	794.20	+ 8.08	4.82
Money Market UT	49.45	49.45	+ 0.04	4.45
-do- Accum	82.65	82.65	+ 0.07	4.45
Monthly Income	93.81	98.02†	+ 0.38	4.47
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	134.20	142.60	+ 1.20	1.37
European Growth	133.20	141.20	+ 1.30	0.01

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Gilt & Fixed	95.66	100.00	+ 0.40	5.25
Income	104.10	110.70	+ 1.20	2.37
Japan Growth	51.90	55.07	+ 1.35	
Managed	94.18	99.74	+ 0.82	1.96
Money Market	94.50	100.60	+ 0.10	3.95
North American	112.30	119.10	+ 1.60	0.38
Midland PSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	121.10	128.50	+ 1.10	1.36
European Growth	125.10	132.60	+ 1.10	0.01
Gilt & Fixed Int	93.42	99.17	+ 0.39	5.30
Income	102.00	108.50	+ 1.10	2.37
Japan Growth	51.54	54.64	+ 1.32	
Managed	89.59	95.72	+ 0.78	1.94
Money Market	87.55	92.63	+ 0.11	3.96
North American	101.40	107.50	+ 1.60	0.45
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	120.95	128.50	+ 1.00	1.36
European Growth	122.40	129.80	+ 1.20	.
Gilt & Fixed Int	84.17	89.24	+ 0.33	5.53
Income	99.45	105.60	+ 1.10	2.42
Japan Growth	52.59	55.65	+ 1.34	
Managed	83.27	88.54	+ 0.79	1.96
Money Market	79.87	84.66	+ 0.07	4.11
North American	113.60	120.40	+ 1.80	0.35
MILLENNIUM FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
International (35)	15.16	16.03	+ 0.19	
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	484.00	514.10†	+ 11.00	
European Gth Inc	577.50	620.50	+ 14.50	
-do- Accum	584.20	627.20	+ 14.60	
Intl Gwth	231.70	246.20	+ 3.60	
UK Equity Inc	227.60	242.30	+ 1.70	3.76
-do- Accum	305.20	324.90	+ 2.30	3.76
UK Idx Trckr Inc	195.20	208.20†	+ 1.50	3.09
-do- Accum	241.10	257.30†	+ 1.90	3.09
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	280.60	297.00	+ 5.80	0.84
Japan Tracker	74.27	78.25	+ 1.25	
Asian Tracker	225.60	244.90	+ 3.80	0.14
Mngd Ptflio Inc	190.50	203.70	+ 1.70	1.94
Mngd Ptflio Acc	202.20	222.30	+ 1.90	1.94
Deposit Inc	99.80	99.80	+ 0.07	5.20
Europa	269.00	290.20†	+ 1.60	.
Sterling	212.40	228.50	+ 0.20	2.38
High Income	21.28	22.56†	+ 0.11	10.00
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 090 633				
Acumen	110.30	112.60	+ 0.63	2.13
Acumen Inc	101.10	105.20	+ 0.60	2.13
Acumen Reserve	94.74	99.63†	+ 0.66	7.59
-do- Inc	74.19	77.93†	+ 0.52	7.59
American Growth	70.27	74.10†	+ 0.11	
Equity Income #	98.65	103.00†	+ 0.90	4.53
European	88.46	94.94†	+ 1.01	0.53
Smaller Cos	26.53	28.30	+ 0.20	1.64
Wrlde Eco	75.63	80.49†	+ 0.72	
Sustn Eqty	45.30	45.71†	+ 0.02	5.49
UK Growth	113.20	119.00	+ 0.50	1.52
Pacific Growth	122.20	129.80	+ 2.10	0.52
Japan Growth	94.47	100.70	+ 0.30	
NPU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Asian Eq...	145.92	155.45	+ 0.54	2.1
NAP UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
0151 [illegible]				
UK Growth	91.44	97.27	+ 0.54	2.52
UK Income	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ 0.93	4.16
Higher Income	[illegible]	257.92	+ 1.79	4.34
Smaller Cos	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ 1.05	1.40
International	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ 1.34	1.39
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
American Gth	[illegible]	141.00	+ 1.40	0.10
European Gth	[illegible]	157.30	+ 1.00	0.30
Far East Gth	[illegible]	214.10†	+ 2.20	
[illegible]	[illegible]	34.45	+ 1.11	0.30
Japan Gth	[illegible]	1271.50†	+ 14.00	
-do- Accum	1564.60	1662.80	+ 18.30	
UK Gth	438.40	464.30	+ 4.20	2.18
-do- Accum	882.20	942.10	+ 9.40	2.18
UK Extra Inc Dist	35.20	37.21†	+ 0.30	2.90
Wrlde Dist	123.50	132.40	+ 1.20	
Wrlde Inc Dist	90.34	96.11	+ 0.69	1.38
NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Enq: 01277 690 230 Action Line: 01277 690 238				
Europe Inc	72.07	76.45	+ 0.77	0.72
Fund of Funds Inc	72.93	74.91	+ 0.57	1.74
North America Inc	69.55	73.60	+ 1.19	0.34
UK Equity Income	69.63	73.39	+ 0.44	2.75
-do- Accum	74.94	78.99	+ 0.49	2.75
UK General Inc	69.13	73.07	+ 0.35	2.79
UK Gilt Fxd Int Inc	49.11	51.73	+ 0.30	6.50
UK Income Inc	66.72	70.42†	+ 0.52	4.12
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0500 550 000 Dealing: 0500 440 000				
American	56.27	59.62	+ 0.53	
-do- Accum	56.57	60.26	+ 0.54	
Bond	127.82	135.75	+ 1.51	5.57
Cash Income	50.74	50.74	+ 0.04	5.29
-do- Accum	68.98	68.98	+ 0.05	5.29
Continental	103.99	110.62†	+ 0.86	2.85
European	57.12	60.76	+ 0.87	.
Foundation	110.93	117.90†	+ 1.00	2.66
General Inc	215.45	229.25	+ 1.58	1.59
General Acc	217.64	231.55	+ 1.58	1.59
Global	377.16	401.22†	+ 0.24	
Growth Inc	146.10	155.42	+ 1.00	2.37
Growth Acc	148.10	157.55	+ 1.00	2.37
Higher Income Inc	32.03	34.07†	+ 0.84	4.64
-do- Accum	39.01	41.50†	+ 1.02	4.64
Income	261.95	278.67	+ 3.05	3.43
Intrepid	143.40	149.37		1.71
Japan	27.67	29.37†	+ 0.24	
Oriental Inc	155.79	165.70†	+ 2.91	0.52
-do- Accum	161.07	171.28†	+ 3.02	0.52
Pac Inl Sach	36.79	39.12	+ 0.73	.
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2555				
High Income #	48.26	51.07	+ 0.46	6.32
Managed	116.20	123.00	+ 1.70	2.39
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 234				
Master Trust	144.38	151.98†	+ 1.19	0.94
UK Equity	171.63	180.66†	+ 0.98	2.83
UK Equity Income	154.90	163.05	+ 1.39	3.16
UK Smaller Cos	140.76	148.17	+ 0.37	1.51
UK Equity Growth	154.41	162.54†	+ 1.33	1.17
UK Index Trckg	169.87	179.28†	+ 0.22	3.37
Intl Index Trckg	174.61	184.29†	+ 2.83	0.92
International	283.24	298.15	+ 2.17	0.70
European	255.87	269.34†	+ 1.87	0.32
Pan European	171.66	180.69	+ 1.76	1.22
Nth American	244.56	257.43	+ 0.30	0.11
N Amer Smlr Cos	245.61	259.80	+ 0.56	
Japanese	94.61	99.59	+ 1.29	.
Pacific	249.33	262.45	+ 4.03	0.53
South East Asian	287.33	302.45	+ 5.53	0.71
Intl Bond	137.03	144.24	+ 0.81	4.25
Gilt & Convertible	109.09	114.83	+ 0.53	5.20
Property	83.56	87.96	+ 0.10	5.81
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01256 768 888				
European Inc	354.80	382.50	+ 2.10	0.15
-do- Accum	376.80	406.30	+ 2.10	0.15
Japan Inc	112.80	120.30	+ 1.50	.
Nth American Inc	141.00	150.10†	+ 3.60	0.62
Worldwide Inc	180.00	193.40†	+ 1.40	0.03
Hong Kong Inc	175.40	188.50†	+ 3.30	1.18
Swiss Equities Inc	89.57	95.83	+ 0.09	.
Wrlde Bond Inc	66.89	70.72†	+ 0.41	5.19
Emging Asia Inc	202.40	218.00	+ 1.80	0.15
-do- Accum	201.10	218.90	+ 1.90	0.15
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.28	50.28†	+ 0.03	5.80
Thailand Inc	139.40	153.30	+ 0.40	1.59
New Zealand Inc	103.80	111.40	+ 1.90	2.85
Intl Mngd PEP Inc	71.38	76.48	+ 0.43	1.06
Latin Am Cmp Inc	66.79	71.65	+ 0.52	0.57
UK All Sh Mkr Inc	71.64	72.78	+ 0.51	2.64
Broker Unit Trusts				
Global Trustees	88.76	94.93	+ 1.05	..
Global Portfolio	79.50	85.03	+ 1.10	.
Global Opps	68.44	73.20	+ 0.55	..
Marsh Global Grth	68.53	73.73	+ 0.22	
CAM Brit Gwth Inc	109.00	116.80	+ 0.20	
Temple Equity Inc	49.39	53.86	+ 0.46	4.23
Hartley Growth	112.60	119.80	+ 1.30	0.42
Intl Growth Inc	87.43	93.51†	+ 0.54	0.68
IPS Portfolio Inc	93.69	100.20	+ 1.08	..
Premier Portms Inc	72.15	77.17	+ 0.34	1.36
Roxburgh Strat Gth	81.67	87.56	+ 0.32	0.64
International Strat	86.08	91.57	+ 0.90	.
UFC Ind-Act Gth	64.07	68.52	+ 0.91	
Chatfield Port of Fds	56.35	60.96	+ 0.68	.
Lowes Intl Growth	52.73	56.51†	+ 0.41	0.12
PM UT MGRS LTD				
0171 588 3983				
Equity Gth	250.80	265.80	+ 0.60	1.13
European Gth	131.00	138.70	+ 1.50	0.64
Income & Gth #	163.80	174.30†	+ 1.30	2.74
Japan Gth	113.30	120.50	+ 1.10	.
Nth Amer Gth	215.00	228.70	+ 4.30	
Overseas Gth	124.00	131.90	+ 1.70	0.06
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg: 0800 626 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	282.80	300.80	+ 1.90	2.41
-do- Accum	618.90	658.30	+ 4.00	2.41
Growth	185.30	195.00	+ 1.30	2.65
Income	275.70	293.30	+ 2.10	3.52
Intl Equity	289.80	308.20†	+ 2.60	0.67
-do- Accum	324.50	345.20	+ 3.00	0.67
UK Income	75.31	80.11	+ 0.58	3.14
UK Intl 25	95.31	101.30	+ 0.70	2.01
New Europe	103.20	109.70	+ 1.40	0.18
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	701.00	749.74	+ 5.25	0.41
-do- Accum	703.75	752.68	+ 5.27	0.41
Income	439.83	470.41	+ 0.31	3.13
Wrlde Recovery	465.79	498.18	+ 1.61	0.46

Equities lose early lead

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	419	Allied Domecq	462	-7	6.4	17.5
625	500	Bulmer (HP)†	517½	-19	3.2	17.3
131	94½	Burn Stewart	94½	..	6.6	20.4
775	615	Glenmorangie A	775	..	1.9	19.5
491½	411	Grand Met	477½	-1½	4.0	20.3
493	435	Guinness	463½		4.0	15.1
378	315	Highland Dist	343½	-3	2.9	16.0
903	342½	Matthew Clark	350	-7½	8.6	16.7
141	93	Minydon Wt	123		4.6	11.2
2612½	1606½	SA Breweries	1650		2.2	

BANKS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3716¾	2743¾	ABN-AMRO†	3509¾	-16¾	3.9	12.3
663	528	Abbey Natl	632	-4	4.7	11.5
385	315	Allied Irish	380½		4.7	10.9
355½	285	Aus New Z	352½	-½	5.2	8.7
5443¾	3843¾	Bank America†	5387½			
318	227½	Bank Scotland	254½	-5½	3.4	10.7
955½	683	Barclays†	946½	-3½	3.7	10.3
499	413	Bk of Ireland†	499	+4	3.8	11.4
482	379	Cater Allen	416½		9.0	12.4
5668¾	4031¼	Citicorp	5662½			
392	318	Close Bros	340	-3½	3.3	15.1
£157¼	£131½	Commerzbk	£146½	+1½	3.5	
1350	1068¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1109¾	+6¾	0.4	
3412½	2950	Deutsche Bk	3077½	-31½	2.5	
806½	593¾	Espirito Santo	803½	-3¾	4.4	10.8
1587	1177¾	Fuji Bank Y	1238½	-15¼	0.4	
472	325	Gerrard Nat	327½		8.8	10.4
287½	196	Hambros	262½	+2	3.6	
1221½	931	HSBC†	1217	+8	3.9	11.5
1190	930	HSBC HK†	1188	+11½	4.0	11.3
457½	385	Irish Perm†	456½	+8	3.1	12.5
177	143	King Shaxson	158½		6.7	14.6
458	405	Leopold Jt	455		5.4	16.5
401	294½	Lloyds TSB†	378½	-12½	4.0	16.0
653	586	Nat Aust Bk	638½		7.0	8.0
711	605½	Nat West†	674½	-6½	4.9	9.6
68	49½	Rea Brothers†	53½		2.3	21.8
596	468	Ryl Bk Scot	484	-3	4.4	10.7
1462½	1185	Schroders†	1392½	+2½	1.6	15.8
1137½	890	Schroders N/V†	1092½		2.0	12.4
134	99½	Singer & Fried	127½		4.2	3.2
729½	547	Stand Chart†	715	-1½	2.7	13.9
115½	85½	Union†	113	-1	3.3	12.1
£174½	£131¾	Wells Fargo	£164½		2.0	
329½	264	Westpac	318	-4½	4.5	9.7
360	268	Wintrust†	345		4.5	17.3

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
80	36	Abrdn Stk Hld	70			5.9
387	263	Ascot Hldgs	329½			12.5
846½	702	Bass	793½	-2½	3.7	17.1
70	40	Bk for the Bdr	53½		3.9	16.3
177	161	Burtonwd Brw	167		4.1	15.1
136½	92	City Centre Rest†	136		2.2	33.7
621	483	Compass Gp	566	+5½	1.7	27.0
266	190	Eldridge P 'A'	253½	-½	2.4	23.4
540	413	Fuller Sm 'A'	457½		2.5	15.6
636	546	Greenalls Grp	579	+14½	3.2	15.7
671	567½	Greene King▼	644½	+1	3.0	16.1
285	190	Grosvenor Inns†	208½	-1	3.5	22.2
259	204	Groupe Chez Ger	231½		1.4	23.5
357	297	Hardy Hanson	297		4.3	11.1
3475	3000	Hall J	3000		2.3	16.3
72	46	Inn Business†	70½		1.0	33.3
355	305	Mansfield	305	-1½	2.4	14.9
363½	275	Merton Thomp	294½	+1	3.1	12.1
673	535	Morland	602½		2.5	18.2

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
476½	350	Redland	455½		4.6	17.4
123	84½	Rockel	89		6.6	9.8
153	87½	Ruberoid	99½		7.7	9.6
140	102	Rugby Group	108	-1½	4.2	27.7
131	101½	Russell (A)	102½		3.3	18.9
265	196	SIG	265	+3½	3.1	13.2
4½	3	SWP	3½			
208½	156	Sharpe & Fisher	208½	+2	3.2	18.8
27	11	Spring Ram	11	-½		
230	175	Streamline Hldgs	216		4.5	18.0
138	95½	Tarmac	95½	-½	7.2	15.6
147	97	Titon	100		6.0	10.9
478½	350	Travis Perkins	457½	+3	2.8	19.7
40	25½	Tudor	30½		4.1	13.8
488	415	Wolseley	474	+4	2.6	16.4

CHEMICALS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
207	156	Albright & Wil	200½		4.2	16.8
147	113	Allied Colloids	144½		2.5	25.2
210	150	Amber Ind	152½		4.7	10.8
106	66	Amberley Grp	92½		1.9	22.0
2006½	1443½	BASF DM	2006½	+25	3.0	
949	841	BOC	874½	+1½	3.9	15.6
317½	258	BTP	315½	+½	4.4	17.4
2371½	1776½	Bayer DM50	2362½	+43½	2.7	
112	70	Brent Chems	106½	+½	2.8	31.4
249½	192	Br Vita	245	+2½	4.1	27.9
266½	192	Canning (W)	266	+1	3.9	29.8
221	195½	Cptr Technology	195½	-2		
472½	401	Courtaulds	465½	-3	4.3	23.3
353	294	Croda†	352½		3.4	16.7
290	200½	Doeflex	267½		3.1	15.3
295	246	Ellis & Everard†	280		4.7	14.0
94	67	Euro Colour	75½		3.6	14.9
197	119	Gibbon†	121½		7.2	7.8
93	67	Hickson	78		3.2	
2381½	1750	Hoechst	2165½	-8½	2.5	
166	102	Holliday Chem†	141		4.5	19.6
959	738	ICI†	838	-2½	4.6	20.2
388	188½	Inspec▼	234½		3.3	11.4
147	111	Kalon†	114½		5.3	
782	629	Laporte	738½	+1	3.9	40.0
325	197½	Manders	214	-1	6.8	13.1
100	76	Mercian	96		2.5	11.5
37	26	Metrotect	30½	-½	2.9	71.4
432	287½	Porvair†	290		2.4	19.6
273½	221	Scapa	273½	+1	3.1	15.6
34	26	Stitchle Speak†	32½		2.8	12.6
1185½	922½	Takeda Chem	1168½	-17½	0.7	17.0
1133	788	Wolstenholme R	842½	+5	3.7	15.4
296	230	Yorks Grp†	246		4.4	13.9
399	305	Yule Catto	392½	+4	2.5	19.4

DISTRIBUTORS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
121	85½	ABI Leis	91½	+5	5.9	10.9
465	365	Adam & Harvey†	377½	+5	6.5	8.7
18	14	Alexanders	15½		2.4	
113	79	Appleyard†	86½		9.0	9.9
4	3	Ass Br Engt	3½		2.1	
630	505	BSS Group	600		4.3	16.6
38	21½	Bandt	22½		4.4	13.2

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
618	426	Brammer†	514	+½	3.0	17.6
26½	18	Bridgend Gp	25		1.1	
113	76	Bull Fencing	97½		4.9	11.0
290	245	Caltyre	285		6.0	22.6
160	105	Cavendish†	135		3.1	8.9
107½	78	Charles Sidney	95½		5.5	12.2
79	54½	Cook (DC)†	70	-½	3.8	8.6
404½	276½	Cowie▼	388½	+½	3.5	13.4
175	120½	Dag Motors	120½		8.1	8.4
163	125½	Dewhurst El	142½		2.3	14.3
434	328	Diploma	342½		5.3	12.0
407	328	Electrocomps	395	-5	2.1	25.3
314	172	Forrdic Elect	189½		3.2	18.3
134	65	Eurodollar	127½	-1	4.2	18.2
105	76	European Mot	101	-2	6.4	11.4
375	282	Evans Halshaw†	363½		7.3	11.1
67	49	Fife Indmar†	49½		8.3	7.4
338	248	Finelist Grp†	316½		2.5	18.2
31½	16½	Gardner†	31		3.5	12.4
81	33½	Glenchewton†	69½		1.9	20.5
91	72½	Gowrings	74		4.7	12.4
101	87	Hamlet†	92		8.2	
242	216	Harris (Philip)	260½		3.9	19.6
295½	200½	Headlam	291½		2.2	24.0
200	132	Holders Tech†	176½		4.2	16.6
192½	153	ISA Intl	191½		1.7	17.4
316	231	Inchcape	302½		3.8	
78	33	Jacks (Wm)	73½		2.9	28.8
260	169	Park-Fd	235½	+2	2.8	18.7
390	299	Lex Service†	376½	-1	5.1	12.0
155	119	Lookers†	120	-½	8.3	7.0
17	10½	Meade Gp	12½	+½	6.7	12.7
9½	6½	Middlesex	7½		1.3	11.1
47	31	Midstates†	42		0.7	
565	440	Normans†	480		2.0	14.0
349	230	Northamber†	287½		1.0	10.6
162	108	PCT	125		7.7	11.7
341	272	Pendragon†	320		3.6	15.5
211	145	Perry Gp	182½		5.8	9.1
745	602	Premier Farnell	663½	-6	2.0	17.7
190	135	Quicks Group†	160½		5.1	12.0
315	185	REA†	232½	+2½	2.2	29.5
3	2	Reece	2½			
54	25½	Rosson▼	26½		7.1	9.1
4½	2	Ross Gp	3½			
56	46½	SEP Ind†	53		3.9	11.4
195	98	Saltire	106	+1	1.2	34.4
392½	246	Time Products	382		3.3	
41	30	Toren Hse	35½		4.5	18.6
282½	123	UMECO	260½	-7	2.0	22.9
332½	263½	Vardy (Reg)†	302½		2.7	14.2
465	325	Wholesale Ftgs	457½		3.6	19.1
59	25½	Wilshaw†	37½	-1½	2.8	10.1
149½	75½	Wyko	140		2.0	
133	104	Young (H)	123½		4.0	11.4

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1½	0½	Anglo Utd	1			
388	298	Antofagasta	358½		1.8	13.9
1056	804	Broken Hill	816½	-39½	3.1	17.8
340	229	BTR	262½	+2	4.3	20.8
586	421	BAT†	462½	-3	6.7	9.1
224	145½	Beresford Intl	146½	-½	3.0	10.6
134	108	Bibby (J)	128½		5.8	9.3
65	50½	Brierley Inv	64½		7.6	
972	810	Charter†	842½	-1½	4.2	12.0
328	246	Cookson†	259	+4	4.1	13.8
193	141	Cosalt†	192½		5.9	12.1
283	204	DCC	275½		3.1	10.9
141½	113	Grampian Hldg	140		5.4	15.6
220	151½	Hanson†	160½	-2	9.4	8.2
172½	121	Harrisn Crsfld	136½		8.2	13.2
439½	379½	Hutch Whamp	419½	+1	1.8	22.6
563½	387½	Jardine Math	426	-6	3.8	
217½	160½	Lonrho†	173	-2	3.4	20.6
191	164	McLeod Russel	180½		4.5	15.5

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
145	74½	Babcock	75		4.0	
8½	6	Bailey (CH)	7½			
144	98	Baynes (Charles)	141	-1	2.4	20.5
38	24	Beauford	36½		2.1	9.4
80	38	Benson Group	46½			
105	88	Bettam	91		7.3	
640	403	Bodycote	615	+7½	1.4	23.9
48	35½	Booth Inds	43½			
28½	17	Brasway†	25½		3.8	11.8
130	98	Bripco	105		5.2	
1066½	787	Br Aerospace	1065½	-6	1.8	21.9
201	161	Br Steel	194	-½	6.4	5.2
15½	11½	Brooke Tool	14		2.7	10.4
38	28	Brunel	30½		2.0	11.7
113	73	Bullough†	81½		8.4	
143	92	Burnfield	112½	-2	3.7	16.7
315	222	Carclo Engt	262½		5.1	12.9
238	171	Castings	235½		2.3	15.8
158	140	Chamberlin Hill	150		6.2	9.8
456	355	Chemring	356		3.9	13.9
325	185	Clyde Blowers	323		2.8	72.1
651	471	Cobham	640½		1.9	
665	545	Cohen (A)	545	-10	2.8	6.8
194	162½	Concentric	167½	+3½	5.0	11.5
268	215	Cook (Wm)†	245½		4.6	
335	190	Davy Brown	224½	+5	4.2	14.6
395	320	ES	348	+2½	4.8	12.3
31	9½	Eleco	10½		3.0	5.9
121	74	Elliott (B)	101½		3.7	10.1
102	86	Expamet	101½	+½	3.9	17.9
207	153	FKI†	200	+1	3.2	17.7
180	130	Fenner	162½		2.9	15.6
8½	1½	Ferrum	8			
60½	38	Firth Hldgs	59½			19.4
75	55½	Firth Rixson	74½		1.8	30.9
152	120	GEI Intl	138		4.1	13.7
222	176½	Garton Eng	181½		4.6	7.2
393	316	Glynwed	361½	-3½	4.5	15.4
17	12	Graystone	14½		4.7	9.8
103	71½	Haden MacLnt	97½	+½	3.2	13.2
269½	181	Hadleigh†	267½		2.7	15.5
270	177	Hall Eng	262½	+1	3.9	13.6
201	166	Halma	182		1.7	22.4
64½	43	Hampson Ind†	64		4.4	24.3
32	23	Hay (Norman)	29½			23.7
51	38	Headway	42½	-1	4.2	8.0
117	81½	Hill & Smith†	81½	-1	8.9	8.9
41	28	Hopkinsons	30		5.4	
42	34	How Gp	39		4.0	19.2
76	65½	Howden†	74	-½	4.9	9.3
232	110	Hunting	152½		8.2	
407	311	IMI†	389½	-8½	3.8	20.4
684	510	Johnson Matth	605	+6½	3.0	17.8
60	43	Jones Stroud	56½		2.2	9.2
635	435	Kelsey Ind	457½		6.6	9.1
288	178	Lincat	205½	+3	5.0	11.4
38	23½	Lister (T)	37½		2.2	16.8
47½	34	ML Hldgs†	39½	+1	4.4	
36	27	MS Intl	23½		3.2	23.9
348½	222	Mang Bronze	348½	+1	2.0	15.2
542½	309	McKechnie	520½	-1	4.0	15.8
109½	84	Meggitt	109		4.6	18.0
118½	99	Metalrax	113		4.0	18.5
113	88	Motser	110½		3.9	10.6
1037	765	Molins†	882½		2.9	12.7
473½	384	Morgan Crble	455½	-1	3.9	17.2
305½	254	Morris Ashby†	305½		3.1	15.6
55	44	Neepsend†	44½	-½	5.1	8.3
24½	12½	OMI Intl	24			
550½	374	Powerscreen	549	+2½	2.1	18.0

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
299	200	Quadramatic	277½		3.9	16.1
18	4	Quadrant Gp	11½	+½	2.7	
65	62	Radiant Metal	65			
69	53	Ransomes†	60		1.0	14.6
83	55½	Record	63½		7.2	12.0
324	231	Renold	311	+½	2.3	14.9
36	13	Richards Group	13½		20.8	
89	71½	Richardson West	72½		8.3	8.3
246	187	Rolls-Royce	236	-½	2.7	23.2
258	171	Rotork†	256		3.1	21.2
192	160	Rubicon	175		4.4	12.6
1584½	1187½	SKF 'B'	1568½		3.3	8.8
112	92½	Senior Eng	104	+½	4.3	14.1
319½	158	Swift-Rite	315½	-1	1.5	25.9
971½	750	Siebe†	966	-2	1.7	22.0
84	34	Simon Eng	37½	-6½	2.1	14.0
301	150	Six Hundred	257		1.9	11.3
781½	622	Smiths Ind	762½	-2	2.5	22.6
786½	503	Spirax-Sarco	765	-2½	2.3	20.9
324	287	Sterling Ind	321½		3.3	17.2
590	456	TI†	587	+2	2.9	20.9
124	92	Tecalem (E)†	121½		6.8	13.7
121	72	TransTec	110		2.5	23.9
197½	140	Triplex Lloyd†	196		4.5	11.7
162½	137	Unicorn Intl	162½		4.2	9.7
82½	67½	Utd Inds	67½		4.2	9.9
23	10½	Verson	22½			
302	241	Vickers†	288	+4	3.0	17.8
14	9	Vikers Gp	9½			18.1
770	656	Vinten	697½	-1	2.0	13.0
882	750	Vosper Thorny	804		3.7	13.9
436	303	Wagon Ind†	306		8.1	8.5
311	212	Weir†	243½	-5½	3.9	15.2
275	228	Wellington Hdg†	262½		3.7	16.3
59	42	Wellman	56½		4.0	10.4
40	26	Wescol	37		7.7	16.3
510	363	Whatman	510		3.0	20.7
122	70½	Widney†	71½	-1	6.1	8.3

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
151	109	Adwest	123½		8.3	68.8
295	253	Auflow Stream	255		4.4	6.8
753½	473	Avon Rubber	739	-4	3.1	18.0
101	57½	BSG	100		4.1	15.5
353	273	Bootrom	285	+3½	3.0	11.6
29	15	Boustead†	16½		7.6	
307	175	ERF	293		1.9	
600	431	First Tech†	581½	-1	1.8	19.7
1089	778	GKN†	1080½	-4	2.9	18.7
3800	2950	General Mtr	3287½		3.1	
669	497	Henlys†	562	+12	2.9	14.3
1758½	1312½	Honda Motor	1618	-18	0.5	
502	386	Laird	456	+3½	3.4	13.6
475	425	Leaks	475		0.3	
256	172	LucasVarity	248½	+7		
136½	91	Mayflower	131		2.0	37.0
193	145	Syltone†	171½		4.2	13.3
187	127	T & N†	136	-1½	5.5	9.8
433	327½	Trinity Hldgs	327½		3.1	16.0

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
77½	67	Brazilian	76	-½	2.1	
291	259	Brunner	283		2.8	
132	113	BZW Conv	130		8.4	
572½	468	Candover†	568½		2.0	34.2
68	39	Contl Euro Gwth	68½		0.8	
224½	177	Cordl Asset	222½	-½	1.7	
75	62	Dartm Inv Inc†	65		15.9	6.8
400	325	Derby Cap	392½			
160	136	Derby Inc†	145½	+1	10.3	7.5
744	654	Dunedin Inc Gt	704	-½	5.0	24.6
372	314	Dunedin Smlr	353½		3.2	45.4
885	789	Dunedin Wwde	843½	+1	1.4	73.6
115½	90½	Edin Dragon	93½	+½		
30½	25	Edinburgh Inca	26½			
345	312½	Edinburgh	338½		3.7	29.4
177	137	EFM Japan	148½	-½		
410	362	Electra Inv	405½	-1½	2.4	64.8
254½	222	Electric Genl†	252½		1.8	54.5
158	139	English Scot	153			
416	332	European Asset	413		1.5	62.0
97	88½	Fidelity Asian Val	94½	+½		
229½	193	Fidelity Euro Val	228½		0.2	
85½	67½	Fidelity Jap Val	69½	-½	0.2	
131	102	Fidelity Spec Val	125	-½	0.5	
196½	171½	Finsbury 'A'	196		2.4	44.1
200½	174½	Fore Am Colo	189½	-½	1.7	53.6
43½	27½	Fore Am Wts	32½			
360	273	Fleming Amer	352½	-½	0.9	
129	99	Fleming Cap	111	+½		
68½	54	Fleming Chinese	56½		1.1	66.2
44	22	Fleming Ch Wts	23	-½		
287½	250	Fleming Claverhs	286	-½	2.7	36.2
400½	343	Fleming Contl	398	+½	1.3	
169	125½	Fleming Em Mkts	130		0.2	
273	234	Fleming Enst	245	+½	2.7	31.0
388	304½	Fleming F East	308½		0.5	
464	395	Fleming Fledg†	445		0.8	
107	95	Fleming Hi Inc†	105		5.6	20.1
109	100½	Fleming Income†	105½		11.2	11.2
71½	50	Fleming Indian	50½			
41	23½	Fleming In Wts	24½			
43	37	Fleming Intl†	37½		13.4	9.5
290	234	Fleming Japan	243	-4		
345½	286	Fleming Merc	339	-½	2.9	38.0
123	95	Fleming Nat Res	110½	-1½	0.6	
366	317	Fleming Overs	337	+½	1.7	
144	128	Fleming Smlr Co	144		4.0	
44	29	Fleming Smlr Wt	43½	-½		
171	147	Foreign & Colt	156½	-½	1.7	72.3
113	90	F&C Inc Gwth†	94		4.5	27.6
116	97	F&C Emg Mkts	98½	-½		
120	85½	F&C Enterprise	118½	-½	1.3	72.5
305½	257	F&C Eurotst	292½	-½	0.5	
142	125	F&C German	140½		0.5	
207	175	F&C Pacific	185½	+½	1.2	64.7
147	134	F&C PEP	145½		3.4	34.2
200	172	F&C Smaller	184½	-1	1.5	73.5
147	122½	F&C US Smlr	142½			
59	50	Framlin Inc	57	+½	10.7	10.4
70	58	Framlin Cap	63½	+1		
18	13	Fulcrum Cap	13			
35	26½	Fulcrum Inc†	27		42.8	2.5
175½	161	Fulcrum Zero	175			
237½	209	Gartmore Brit	236		3.9	

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
110½	93½	HTR Jap Smaller	99	-½		
18	9	I&S Ex	11			
153	114	I&S UK Smlr	153		2.4	25.0
148	128	Inv Capt	143½		4.6	25.4
157	101	Int Biotech	122½		1.8	
78	31	Int Wts	38	-1		
115	95	Inv C	100½			
114	93½	INVESCO Asia	103½		0.7	
65	43	INVESCO Blue	48		21.9	4.9
181	135	INVESCO Eng Ins	176½		0.7	59.5
92	75½	INVESCO Jap Dis	81½	-½	0.4	

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1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
137	101½	INVESCO Korea	101½	-4		
63½	51½	INVESCO Tokyo	54½	-½		
95½	65	J Fry 2nd Ut	74	+1	11.6	
79	66½	J Fry Emo Ut	69	+½	8.1	12.4
360	224	JF Fledg Jap	227½	-½		
88½	74	Jupiter Ex Inct	88		11.1	9.6
7	4	Jupiter Ex IncWt	5½			
83	70	Jupiter Geo Capt	81½		11.9	10.4
29	24½	Jupiter Grd Ptd	28½			

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
133	122	M&G Inc Package†	127		5.3	22.8
72½	65½	M&G Inc Zero Div	72½			
26	21	M&G Rec Cap	25½			
51	44½	M&G Rec Geared†	50½		13.4	9.3
26½	23	M&G Rec Inct	25½		26.7	4.7
149	133	M&G Rec Package†	148½		4.6	27.2
101	88½	M&G Rec Zero Div	101			
147½	114	M Currie Euro†	147		0.6	
112	97½	M Currie Japan	98			
167	143	M Currie Pac	154	+½	0.7	
242	222	Majedie	241½		3.2	37.1
290	235	Merchants	271½		6.0	22.4
107½	91	Mercury Euro Pv	106½		2.2	41.1
33	22½	Mercury Eur Wt	31½			
110	92	Mercury World	97½	-½	1.3	73.7

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
31	14½	Mercury Wld Wts	14½	-½		
619½	567	Monks Inv Tst	616	-½	2.0	47.2
170½	151	Morg Gren Inc	156½	-½	4.0	20.5
70½	53	Morg Wts	56			
78½	57½	Morg Lats Amer	73	-½	0.4	
32	20	Morg Wts	25½			
131	111	Murray Ent	139½	-½	2.3	49.0
34	16	Murray Ent Wts	17	-½		
95	81½	Murray Emg Eco	81½	-½	1.4	73.9
35½	21	Murray Em Ec Wt	22			
67	54	Murray Euro	64½		0.7	
392	338	Murray Income	382½		4.6	26.8
423	377	Murray Intl	415		3.8	30.4
195½	180	Murray S/C DP	194½			
162½	135	Murray S/C Cap	162½			
73	66	Murray S/C Inct	68½		19.9	6.3
3450	2860	Murray S/C Ulst	3237½		0.4	
511	434	Murray Small	466		1.4	68.9
380	355	Murray Vent	373		5.0	
9	7	Newmarket	8½			
415	363	O'seas Inv Tst	388	+½	1.1	
218	167	O'seas Wts	188½	+½		
147	118	Pacific Assets	125½		0.3	
93½	75½	Perpetual Jap	77	-½		
363	287	Perpl Uk Sm Co	350½		0.8	74.0
£126½	£111½	Personal Assets	£125½		2.2	43.3
125	103	Pilot Inv	117½		2.1	47.9
127	108	Praxis Inc	125½		4.7	29.1
251½	210	RIT Cap Ptnr	247½	-½	0.8	
500	450	Rebeco	481		2.8	
547	475	Rolinco	520		1.4	
120½	99½	Schrod Asia Pac	105½	+½		
122	110	Schrod Inc Gwth	120½		4.1	
95	76½	Schrod Jap Gwth	80½	+½		
927½	669½	Schrod Korea	675½	-1½		
23½	18½	Schrod Split Cap	19½			
106	92	Schrod Split Inct	105½		9.5	
140½	128½	Schrod Split Zero	140½			
136½	117	Schrod UK Gwth	132½	-1	2.8	25.9
196	181	Schrod Vent Inc	190½			
281	254	Scot	276½	+½	2.6	47.9
177½	159	Scot American†	175½	-½	3.7	31.3
368	277	Scot Asian	291	+½		
1065	675	Scot Wts	772½	+2½		
106	92½	Scot Eastern†	102½		2.2	53.1
279½	253	Scot Mtge	275½	-1	2.1	46.5
95	88	Scot Nat Tst†	94½	+½	10.6	12.1
121	106½	Scot Value	120½	+½	2.1	56.5
2053½	1823	Second Alliance	2047½		3.0	
96½	88	Secs Tst of Scot	95½	-½	4.7	25.5
147	130	Shires Smlr†	136½		5.3	21.5
379	345	St Andrew Invt	374½	-1	3.0	40.4
386	329½	Temple Barr	375	+½	5.0	23.2
127	108	Templn Asian E	115			
58	45	Templ Emgl Cp	50½	-½		
83½	73	Throgmorton	79½	+½	3.6	44.2
140½	125½	Tiphook Emg Mkt	136½		0.9	
173	152	TR City Of Lon†	167		4.3	25.8
256½	193	TR Euro Growth	252½		0.8	
193	170	TR Far East	185		4.3	30.4
136	108	TR High Inc	124½		6.5	18.6
131	108	TR Pacific	112½	+1	0.2	
33½	27½	TR Property	33½		3.7	24.6
239	203½	TR Smlr Cos†	230½	+1	2.1	42.7

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2487½	2162½	[illegible]				
122	87	Angerstein†	114		3.1	36.7
80	50	Archer	65½	-1	1.9	75.2
78	64	Bradstock†	71		10.0	13.8
821	682	Britannic	687½	-1	2.9	31.4
121	93	CLM Insce	121	+1½	2.8	66.6
639	550	Com Union†	600	-2½	6.0	10.2
144	111	Cox Insce	140			39.4
1855	1545	Dom & Gen	1800		2.8	
222½	185½	FBD IE	219	-½	4.3	8.0
158	90½	Fenchurch Grp	97		11.0	6.7
135	105	Finsbury Undert	138½		1.9	
698	612	Gen Accident	680	+7	5.9	7.7
282	218	GRE	255	+1½	4.4	4.1
122	89	HCG Lloyds	121½		2.2	
115	74	Heath C E	86		8.7	21.7
309½	237½	Hibernian IE	278½	+4½	4.3	3.4
133	103	Hiscox Select†	129		2.4	39.8
575	373	Independent	570		2.6	10.3
271	228	Irish Life	249½		5.8	21.5
110	87	JIB Group	111		9.0	
114	97	Jltn Capital	111½		3.9	34.0
785	681	Legal & Gen	774	+18	4.2	20.4
2450	1706½	Liberty Life†	1953½	+9½	1.9	22.1
194	163	Lloyd Thomp	171	-1½	6.8	10.0
832	444	Lloyds Abbey†	620½	+28½	4.5	13.8
433	341	London & Man	387½	-½	6.7	11.2
137½	100	London Ins Mkt	134½		3.2	36.1
163	112½	Lowndes Lmbt	112½	-1	8.3	8.5
6593½	5487½	Marsh McLn	6050		3.8	
115	98	Mackintosh	110		3.6	32.3
206	146	Nelson Hurst	191½		5.3	12.8
109½	82	New London Cap	105½		3.5	28.7
100	54	Ockham	98		4.9	
192	165	Oriel	138½	+3	4.8	
97	81½	Premium Trust	92		4.8	21.9
149	121	Premium Under	135½			
464	403	Prudential	444	+2½	4.6	13.5
31½	19½	PWS	20		3.4	9.3
540	374	Refuge	416½	-4	4.5	26.1
434	349	Royal & Sun Al	397	+½	6.1	
89½	85	St James Place	88½	-½		
152	114	Sedgwick†	127½		7.9	9.7
48	33	Steel Burrill	34		14.1	7.8
243	207½	Sun Life & P	235½	+1½	4.9	11.7
115	90½	Syndicate Capt	109½		3.1	34.4
943	705	Utd Friendly†	826½	-3	4.3	7.6
169	130	Wells Cornort	153	+1	6.2	24.0
26	15	Windsor	19		3.3	18.3

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
483½	406	3i	483	+2	2.1	40.4
236	195	Aberforth Smlr†	234		2.8	45.0
134½	99	Aberforth Sm Wts	134			
92½	71½	Abtrust Emerg	82½		0.6	
78½	56½	Abtrust High Inct	62		12.5	9.5
245	212	Abtrust N Dawn†	226	+½	0.6	
2261½	2023	Alliance†	2247½	-2½	3.0	38.8
332	283	American Trust†	322½	+2	2.2	54.6
519	463	Anglo & O'seas†	496	-1½	2.0	54.7
96	78	Asst Dipct	94½		0.3	
144	127½	Baillie Gifford SN	125½			
238	205	Bankers	225	-½	2.5	45.2
68	37½	Baring Em Eu	67½	-½		
395	364	Baring Tribune†	382½		2.4	52.1
99	91½	Br Assets†	97½	-½	5.9	20.4
113½	94	Br Empire Sec	109½	-½	1.1	
238	221	Br Inv	232½	-1	3.0	38.1

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
251	163	Eurocamp	176½		7.8	8.5
208	138	Euro Disney	138½	-1½		
214	148	Euro Leisure	169	-1		
19	12½	Fairnglond	16			
86	49½	First Choice†	63		7.6	
400	345	First Leisure†	363½		2.7	21.1
190	142	Friendly Hotels	179	+½	4.0	22.6
892	819	Granada†	882	+7½	1.7	22.6
57	25	Hi-Tec Sports	45	+½		18.0
229½	148	Hornby	227½		2.4	
553	423	Hozelock	513½	-1	2.2	18.9

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
193	156	Jarvis Hotels	160	-½		
301½	207	Jurys Hotel	286	-3½	2.8	
31½	23½	Kunick	29½		2.8	24.6
213	143	Ladbroke	208½	+½	3.6	27.3
309	212½	London Clubs	295		3.3	19.6
489	188	Mea Utd	446½		1.3	14.5
96½	77½	Mandarin Orntl	93½	-½	3.8	20.3
345	278	Millennium & Copt	323	-½	0.3	24.7
142	89	Northern	137½		3.6	15.6

MEDIA

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
305	165	Adscene	191½		5.7	12.5
65½	37½	Anglo Grt	64½		0.4	20.8
28	16½	Atlantic Telecom	27½			
20	14	BBB Design	20			
425	273	Barbour Index†	392½		3.0	45.7
9	5½	Birkdale	7			
340	325	Black (A&C)	340		5.1	12.0
463	238	Blenheim Gp	421	+½	3.1	20.3
318	246	Border TV†	281½		2.6	19.2
417	355	Bristol	416		4.2	22.2
595½	376	BSkyB†	578½	-3½	1.2	42.4
188	133	CIA Grp	156½	-9½	1.8	18.1
734	533	Capital Radio	634½	-7	2.2	23.9
534	378½	Carlton Comm	472	+1½	2.7	15.9
558	363	Chrysalis	505½		0.7	

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
93	75	City of Lon	82½		7.7	12.0
138	90	Cordiant	111½	+2		
1737½	1300	Daily Mail	1503½	-6½	1.5	36.6
1668½	1162½	Daily Mail 'A'	1359½	-9½	1.7	33.1
646	495	Dorling Kind	521	-4	1.1	
749	539	EMAP	740	-5	1.9	31.3
1468	1059	EMI	1376	-6½	2.5	41.4
1097	845½	Elsevier†	1027½	-10	2.2	25.4
1332	1030	Euromoney Pb	1290		4.2	24.6
63½	19	Fecn	37½			10.6
541	440	Flextech	536½	-3½		
251	198	GBT Group	223		3.3	25.4
259½	174	GWR Grp	230½	-½	1.3	33.7
253	209	Gearhouse Group	249½		2.2	16.3
30	18	Goodhead	29½		0.9	
276	217	Grampian	264½		2.5	22.9
401	284	HTV Group	330½	-5	1.4	32.1
328	277½	Haynes Pub	297½		4.6	
27	17	Highbury Hse	20			
260	199	Hodder H'ine	206½		3.9	15.8
282½	145	Home Counties†	282½	+5	2.4	32.3
334	273	IBC	316	+½	3.2	11.7
22½	10½	Incepta	21			56.4
327½	232	Independent	325	+2½	3.0	33.3
110	95½	Intereurope	98		8.7	18.9
207½	134½	Johnston Press	187½	-3½	1.5	20.3
24	13	Lopert	22½		3.1	
343	142	MAID	299	-5½		
330	330	Maiden	333½	+2	1.9	
71	55	Medeus	59½		2.0	
1080	647	Mice Bulletin	1067½		2.0	35.0
155	108	Midland Ind	128	-½	3.6	19.4
341	175	Mirror Gp	232	+9½	2.4	16.3
695	455	More O'Ferrall	682½	+2½	2.5	21.0
393	308	News Corp	337½	-2½	0.5	
224½	104	On Demand Info	136½	-1		
42	30	Osprey Comms	32½	-½		
744	594	Pearson†	671½	-16	3.2	27.0
205	72	Phonelink	73½	-3		
740	575	Portsmth Sund	712½	+5	2.3	14.8
316	249	Quarto†	297½	-2	3.1	11.2
1220	980	Reed Intl†	1156½	-6	2.7	20.7
814	586	Reuters	758½	+4	2.0	22.5
402	296	Scot Radio	360		2.4	
741	468	Scot TV	717½	+1½	3.1	26.6
57½	36	Shandwick†	52½	+1½	3.1	7.2
58	20	Sleepy Kids	29	+3	0.4	10.8
374	267	Southnews	366	+2½	2.0	23.8
30½	23	Sterling Publ	28	-1½		
53	35	Taylor Nelson	52½	+½	1.7	24.7
175	113	Television Cpt	148		1.7	
1105	865	Thomson Corp†	1095		4.0	23.1
459	342	Trinity Intl	420½	-5	3.3	22.7
278	195	Ulster TV	199		3.0	19.2
756	565	United News	707½	-3	4.2	31.0
140	88½	VTR	88½		6.4	8.7
283	206	Visual Action†	220½		2.7	17.5
246½	157	WPP	232	-½	0.8	20.0
92	66	Wilmington	89½		0.3	29.5
1273	680	Yorkshire TV†	1155	-2½	1.9	33.7

OTHER FINANCIAL

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
143	85½	Aberdeen Tst	85½		4.0	17.0
118½	77	BWD†	105½	+½	6.3	11.6
45½	34½	Berry Bch Mkt	44½		2.2	
345	252	Bristec Inv	264			
295	151	Brewin Dolphin†	187½	-2	5.0	11.7
805	595	Caledonia	730½	+4	3.1	23.7
2500	1700	Camellia	2500		1.7	20.8
276	213	Cattles†	258½	-2½	3.5	17.4
42	18	Chrgole	32½	+1		
147	90	EFT Group	135½		2.1	14.8
725	611	EFM	612	-1	5.1	14.9
118	64½	Exco	70½		13.8	11.8

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1290	1075	Henderson Ad	1262½	-6	4.5	30.2
296	217	Investec†	246		2.4	16.6
95½	79½	Investment Co†	95		5.8	15.4
338	229	Ivory Sime	282½	+4½	3.7	21.1
230½	183½	Jardine Str	204½		4.6	
172½	95	Johnson Fry	155½		3.3	6.8
335	329	Liberty Intl†	374	-4½	5.1	21.2
293½	218	Lon Forfaiting	298½		4.5	12.9
231	215	London Pacific	230½		7.9	10.6
117	87½	Lon Scot Bk	104½	-½	3.1	19.7
188	139	Man ED & F	158½	+½	6.0	7.6
1254	999	M & G	1132½	-8	3.8	21.0
1023	841	MAM	1022½	+1	4.3	19.3
109	94	Nat Home Loan	96½		1.3	4.3
2575	1930	Perpetual	2340	-5	2.6	20.8
436	236	Provident†	458½	-1	4.0	17.6
336	310	Rathbone Brs	326	+1	4.1	14.4
60½	37½	Rutland Tst	60½	-½	2.5	21.9
95	42	SEC Group	94½		5.6	18.5
457	290	S & U	432	-4	4.8	10.8
607	499½	Save Pacific	565	-5½	2.1	22.3
57	33	Towry Law	48		2.6	
9	5	Tdo Hldgs	5½			

PHARMACEUTICALS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
250	163½	Brit Biotech	205	+2½		
715	340	Cantab Pharma	627½	-5		
633	473½	Celltech	507½	+1½		
568	224	Chiroscience	373½	-5½		
447	166	Cortecs	226	-6½		
969	767	Glaxo Wellcome†	957½	-4	3.9	13.7
475	298½	ML Laboratories	310½	-9		
286	208	Medeva†	246	-1½	2.2	13.9
242	168	Peptide Thera	189½	-2½		
808	524	Scotia	673½	-24		
265	183	Shire Pharms	199			
95	69	SkyePharma	81½			
781	628½	SmithKline	762½	-1	2.3	27.4
532	445	Therp Anti Inc	529	-1		
623	457½	Vanguard	490	-2½		
1626	1216	Zeneca†	1575	-15	2.6	34.3

PRINTING & PAPER

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
158	130	AG Holdings	157½		4.6	13.2
685	547	API	680	-2½	1.9	22.6
140	91	App Holo	106½			
212	164	Arjo Wiggins†	172	-1	5.5	
295	193	Ascen Comc	204		3.8	11.7
397	339	Bemrose	342½		5.2	10.3
196½	133	Blagden	195		1.5	16.4
2225	2037½	Bowater Inc	2387½	-31½		
315	223½	Barmore Ind	306½		1.1	35.9
770	645	Br Polythene	756	+4	2.9	16.0
38	16	Br Thornton	27½			
168	132	Brown Grp	141½	-½	2.7	12.8
245½	191	Bunzl	239		3.2	14.7
210	173	Capital Inds	195		3.5	13.1
368½	279	Cropper (James)	368½		1.3	29.1
755	579	De La Rue	603½	-1	4.9	14.2
95	73	Delyn Group	75		3.3	12.0
182½	131	Dolphin Pack	181½		4.1	14.6
109	86	Fairway Group†	96½		5.1	15.9
267	190	Ferguson Intl	236		7.0	12.5
275	145	Filofax	163½		2.6	10.1
177	112	Inveresk†	157½	-1	4.6	14.1
310	192½	Jarvis Porter	195		4.3	9.7
574	459	Low & Bonar†	558½		3.0	15.5
105	66	MY Holdings	102½		2.6	30.0
283	199½	Macfarlane†	200	-½	2.5	16.8
134	103½	Mono Gpt	103½		7.5	7.7
404	319	Photobition	336½		2.4	18.9
201	158	Plysu	179		5.1	18.6
41	31	Porter Chadburn	36½	+2½		13.4

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
504½	258	Lloyds Chem	503½		2.6	19.3
209½	149½	MFI†	195	-1	2.8	22.9
512½	416½	Marks Spencer	508½	-5	2.8	20.9
635	525	Menzies (John)	557	-5½	3.1	13.9
27½	15½	Merchant Retail	21½	+½		
1305	615	Moss Bros	1209		1.9	27.3
603½	420	Next	568	-7½	2.9	23.2
63	33½	Oliver (G)	35½			
538	400	Ottakars Intl	537½		2.8	17.9
82½	66	Partridge Fine†	81½		4.4	13.8
56	32	QS Hldgs	42		4.6	
291½	191	Rosebys†	291½		2.6	21.9
105	91½	Sears	94½		5.3	76.1
34	14½	Signet Group	23	-2½		
534	389	Smith WH†	490	-1½	4.0	
1060	820	Sotheby's†	1045	+10	2.0	
362	279½	Storehouse	308	+1	2.9	17.5
130	90	Stylo▼	117½		5.0	18.2
231	181	T & S Stores	197		4.6	11.7
410	351½	Thorn	378½	-9½	4.4	18.8
171	159	Tie Rack	167		2.1	18.7
3½	2½	Upton & South	3½			
664	542	Vendome†	599½	-5½	2.1	
29½	12	WEW Group	26		1.7	
141	66	Wickes#	69		3.8	
94	52	Wld of Leather	77½	-3	2.8	
227½	198	Wyevale	227½		3.2	16.7

SUPPORT SERVICES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1550	883	ADT	1280			
148	131½	Acton Cp Sols	131½	-1		
135	92	Alpha Airpts	112	+2½	5.6	12.2
38	26	Alphameric	36½	-½		
287½	215	Adams WS	287½	+3	2.5	23.2
190	129	BNB Res	180		4.4	10.7
400	283	BPP	392½	+2½	3.7	18.8
203	155	BSM	199½	+1	4.5	13.0
2217½	1015	BTG	2217½	+197½	0.2	
1350	400	Borland	625			
189	123	Brit Data Mgt	174½	-3	4.0	20.5
110½	80	Brooks Service	106½		3.5	18.2
488	373	Business Post	425	+2	2.6	24.5
707	329	CMG	703½	-2½	1.1	31.6
255	111½	CRT Grp	235½	+1	2.2	
958½	187	Caird Grp	610	-7½	0.6	4.7
413½	285	Capita Group†	413½	+2½	1.4	34.2
10½	6	Chemex	7		2.7	12.2
386	317	Chubb Sec	332	-3	3.2	16.4
195½	92	Corp Services†	188		3.0	22.8
58	46	Coutts Cnsltg†	56½		4.8	18.2
215	73	DCS Gp	193½		1.0	30.3
275	214	Davis Service	274	-1	4.9	13.9
580	367	Delphi	545	-10	1.0	19.0
169	98	Dudley Jenkins†	168		2.7	23.1
82	38	EW Fact	78½		2.7	11.9
116	67½	El Data Prc	76½		3.5	11.7
419	345	FI Group†	405	+2½	1.3	35.3
481	362	Hays	476½	-1	2.1	21.1
288	210	Hogg Robinson	268½		4.2	12.9
2028½	1112½	ISS B Dkr	1478½	-3½	1.6	10.2
542	360	JBA Hldgs	527½	-½	1.0	31.5
311	256	Johnson Cleant	305		4.6	12.7
149	103	Kalamazoo†	132½	-3	4.2	13.5
500	351	Kewill Syst	456½		2.2	13.5
347	89	LBMS	80	-1½		
41	13	Laser-Scan	25½			
139	90	Leaught	129½	-3	3.8	
717½	452	Logica	717½	+5	1.4	
99	68	Lynx Hldgs	77½	+½	2.6	76.5
92	40½	MDIS	60	-½	2.5	
560	246	MMT Comp	530	-2½	1.7	26.1
101	66	MR Group	90½		5.7	
520	398	Macro 4†	510		7.4	
2718½	1568½	Manpower	2187½	-8½	0.4	
90	77½	Menzomes Abbey	87	-½		70.0
1340	553	Micro Focus	752½	+4½		

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
103¼	100	Conv 10% 1996	100	-	9.94	5.61
101	100	Treas 7% 1997	100		6.93	5.80
107	100	Treas 13¼% 1997	102		12.94	5.66
107	101	Exch 10½% 1997	101	-	10.30	5.70
107	102	Treas 8¾% 1997	102		8.53	5.93
114	102	Exch 15% 1997	109	-	13.71	5.98
109	104	Exch 9¾% 1998	104	-	9.39	6.16
102	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	101	-	7.15	6.28
104½	99	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100		6.75	5.75
118	111	Treas 14% 1998-01	111	-	12.51	6.33
122	116	Treas 15½% 1998	116	-	13.28	6.46
114	110	Exch 12% 1998	111	+	10.73	6.56
108	105	Treas 9½% 1999	106	-	8.95	6.60
116	112	Exch 12¼% 1999	112	-	10.86	6.68
112	108	Treas 10½% 1999	109	-	9.62	6.70
98	98	Treas 6% 1999	98	-	6.11	6.70
112	108	Conv 10¼% 1999	109		9.35	6.85
108	104	Conv 9% 2000	108	+	8.47	6.94
105	101	Treas 8% 2000	103	+	7.73	7.05
124	119	Treas 13% 2000	119		10.87	7.04
114	109	Treas 10% 2001	110	+	9.04	7.16

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
101	96	Treas 7% 2001	99	+	7.06	7.20
114	108	Treas 9¾% 2002	111	+	8.75	7.36
105	99	Treas 8% 2003	103	+	7.75	7.39
117	109	Treas 10% 2003	113	+	8.80	7.46
121	114	Treas 11½% 2001-04	116		9.91	7.28
83	78	Fund 3½% 1999-04	81	-	4.31	6.47
114	107	Conv 9½% 2004	111	-	8.55	7.63
96	91	Treas 6¾% 2004	94	+	7.12	7.61
108	101	Treas 8½% 2005	105	+	8.08	7.72
114	108	Conv 9½% 2005	111	+	8.55	7.70
131	129	Treas 12½% 2003-05	127	+	9.83	7.52
103	94	Treas 7½% 2006	98	+	7.85	7.77
103	96	Treas 7¾% 2006	99	+	7.78	7.81
104	97	Treas 8% 2002-06	100		7.96	7.77
125	118	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121	+	9.71	7.51
106	101	Treas 8½% 2007	104	+	8.12	7.85
138	130	Treas 13½% 2004-08	134		10.06	7.48
112	105	Treas 9% 2008	108	+	8.29	7.89
104	96	Treas 8% 2009	100	+	7.96	7.94

LONGS (over 15 years)

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
88	81	Treas 6¼% 2010	85	+	7.35	8.03
112	104	Conv 9% 2011	108	+	8.31	8.02
113	104	Treas 9% 2012	108	+	8.30	8.05
82	75	Treas 5½% 2008-12	78	+	6.98	7.83
103	95	Treas 8% 2013	99	+	8.06	8.08
101	93	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	97	+	7.98	8.08
103	95	Treas 8% 2015	99	+	8.08	8.07
111	102	Treas 8¾% 2017	105	+	8.24	8.14
141	130	Exch 12% 2013-17	135	+	8.85	8.13
99	95	Tr 8% 2021	99	+	8.07	8.09

UNDATED

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
45	41	War Ln 3½%	43	+	8.12	...
32	29	Treas 2½%	30	-	8.27	..
50	46	Consols 4%	48	+	8.25	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
114	111	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	114	+	1.03	2.10
183	176	Treas IL 2% 2001	183	+	2.71	3.30
178	171	Treas IL 2½% 2003	178	+	3.01	3.45
116	112	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	116	+	3.08	3.47
186	179	Treas IL 2% 2006	186	+	3.24	3.54
167	161	Treas IL 2½% 2009	167	+	3.38	3.63
173	166	Treas IL 2½% 2011	172	+	3.45	3.67
143	136	Treas IL 2½% 2013	141	+	3.49	3.69
152	145	Treas IL 2½% 2016	150	+	3.55	3.73
146	138	Treas IL 2½% 2020	144	+	3.60	3.76
122	115	Treas IL 2½% 2024	119	+	3.60	3.74
120	113	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	117	+	3.60	3.75

RACING: HIGH DRAW LOOKS ADVANTAGEOUS IN AYR SPRINTS

Coastal Bluff can show way in cavalry charge

By Richard Evans
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE masochistic streak within most punters which attracts them to big handicap fields like moths to a flame will flourish today with two sprinting cavalry charges at Ayr. However, salvation is at hand as backers try to solve the 29-runner Ladbroke Ayr Gold and Silver Cups.

For once, the form book is only of limited assistance. Of far more importance is where horses are drawn at the Scottish racecourse. If the evidence of the past 48 hours is an accurate guide, at least half the runners in each race — those drawn in the middle or towards the far rail — may as well stay in their boxes.

The high draw bias also happens to coincide with most of the fancied horses in the Ayr Gold Cup having gained a favoured berth. The sponsors are certainly taking no risk and, as Mike Dillon priced up Europe's richest sprint handicap yesterday, he was most concerned with the runners' stall number. Punters should follow suit.

It will be a surprise if the winner does not come from a group comprising Mr Bergerac, Golden Pound, For The Present, Samwar, Don't Care, Selhurstpark Flyer, Prince Babar, Double Splendour, Emerging Market and Coastal Bluff. Of those, two make particular appeal.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Mentalasanythin
(4.45 Ayr)
Next best: Double Bluff
(4.15 Ayr)

Double Splendour has improved with age and a quick glance at his form over the past two years confirms Paul Felgate's six-year-old is admirably suited to this type of race. The gelding's six victories, achieved on flat, straight tracks, have been achieved in fields with an average of 20 runners. He looks a banker for the frame.

However, future events may prove that **Coastal Bluff** is masquerading here under false pretences. I believe David Barron's progressive four-year-old has the potential to succeed in group company and, after doing this column a favour by landing the Stewards' Cup, he deserves support.

Since recovering from a slight setback after his Goodwood success, Coastal Bluff's home work has been of the highest order and Barron is not too concerned about the fast ground.

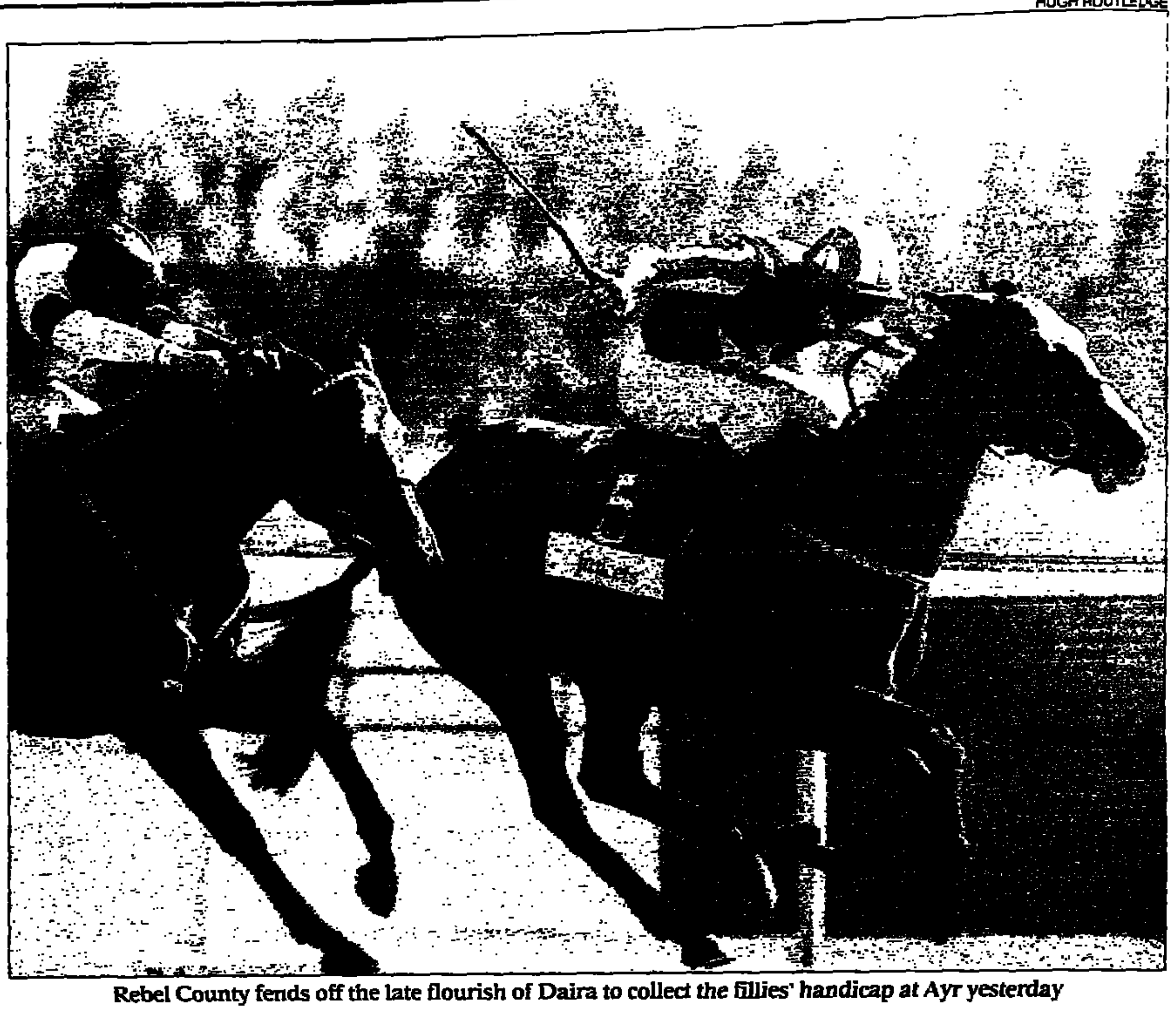
In Newbury's feature race, the Bonusprint Mill Reef Stakes, the progressive Indian Rocket will have his supporters after winning impressively at Ripon. However, that success came on softish ground and John Dunlop's runner does not have a good draw.

Andreyev overcame a three-month absence when pulverising the opposition at Chester three weeks ago and is clearly improving. He will pose a stern test to **Seebe**, the Ian Balding-trained Princess Margaret Stakes winner. She was far from disgraced when, conceding weight, she finished third behind Bianca Nera and Arethusa (both won since) in the Lowther Stakes at York.

Away from the gaze of the television cameras, Derek Haydn Jones complicates matters by sending out two runners in the Ayr finale (5.15). King Curan trotted up at Hamilton recently but may find it harder to dominate here and **Natural Key** looks ready for the step up in trip after also winning at Hamilton.

Maurice Camacho's **Tessajoe** just failed to beat Far Ahead at Thirsk and can oblige at Catterick (3.50).

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Rebel County fends off the late flourish of Daira to collect *the fillies' handicap at Ayr yesterday*

Midyan Blue offers value

NEWBURY
BBC1

2.10: Red Carnival is the form choice judged on placed efforts last year but she could be vulnerable over this trip. **Phantom Quest** is not the easiest horse to win with and needs exaggerated waiting tactics, but his second to Centre Stalls last time reads particularly well.

2.40: Trojan Risk has progressed this term and ran well behind Oops Pettie at Doncaster after a lengthy lay-off. Provided Geoff Lewis's runner avoids a tendency to be slowly away, he should go close. Clan Ben, Edan Heights and Diminutive have bits of form which give them a winning chance, while Game Ploy bounced back to form at Chepstow.

3.10: In a trappy race, **Midyan Blue** should offer each-way value against Ballynakelly, who is seeking his eighth consecutive victory. The selection ran particularly well behind Jiyush at York last time and the winner advertised the form when trotting up at Yarmouth on Thursday. General Macarthur should appreciate this trip, but Whitechapel would like softer ground.

3.40: see above.

AYR
CHANNEL 4

3.05: Brecongill Lad is the form choice but is poorly drawn, along with Stuffed. Bee Health Boy has the draw, but is better with some cut in the ground. Thwaab, twice a course and distance winner this summer, holds claims together with Cretan Gift, who won his first race on turf at Nottingham. Keston Pond, last year's winner, may be better over further now. The well-drawn **Indian Relative** loves to hear her feet rattle and has improved. She ran her best race behind Clan Chief last time.

3.35: Key To My Heart is the strict form choice and this represents a drop in class after decent efforts in group company. However, the trip is the bare minimum and, with Jason Weaver likely to set the pace, the race could be teed up for a horse with a turn of foot.

Desert Shot has conditions, strong pace and fast ground in his favour but appears to have lost some of his sparkle and **Behaviour** is preferred. His last run on easy ground can be ignored and his earlier form reads well.

4.15: see above.

4.45: Mentalasanythin is running over his best trip and ran a cracker at Doncaster last Saturday over an inadequate distance. Today's extra three furlongs can see him oblige off the same handicap mark. Durham has benefited from a change of stable and ran his best race for a long time when winning at Kempton.

RICHARD EVANS

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS

0930 168+	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
AYR	101	201
NEWBURY	102	202
CATTERICK	103	203
MKT RASEN	104	204
CARLISLE	105	205
W'HAMPTON	106	206

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6 furlongs (Handicap), Ayr 4.15pm, Live on CH 4TV.

9/2	Coastal Bluff	25/1	Sylva Paradise
9/1	Samwar	28/1	Benzoe
12/1	Double Bounce	28/1	Golden Pound
12/1	Double Splendour	33/1	Bolshoi
14/1	For The Present	33/1	Sea-Deer
14/1	Prince Babar	33/1	Sir Joey
16/1	Selhurstpark Flyer	33/1	Tiler
16/1	Wildwood Flower	40/1	Babsy Babe
18/1	Don't Care	50/1	Bajan Rose
18/1	Musical Season	50/1	Hard To Figure
20/1	Tedburrow	50/1	Hawa Al Nasamaat
25/1	Bollin Joanne	50/1	Patsy Grimes
25/1	Emerging Market	50/1	Shamanic
25/1	Lago Di Varano	50/1	Ziggy's Dancer
25/1	Mr Bergerac		

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AYR

THUNDERER

1.55 Double Flight
2.25 Burkes Manor
3.05 Keston Pond
3.35 Desert Shot
4.15 For The Present
4.45 Deano's Beano
5.15 Fame Again

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING DRAW: 6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

1.55 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND TOP FLIGHT LEISURE MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,347: 1m) (4 runners)

101	(4)	24	JACKSON FALLS 2 (C Stevens) T Easterby 9-0	M Birch	88
102	(1)	0	LAWN LOTHARIO 14 (J Morrison) M Johnston 9-0	T Williams	–
103	(2)		MANILENO (C Barber-Lomax) J Hetherton 9-0	K Fallon	–
104	(3)	30	DOUBLE FLIGHT 29 (The 3rd Middleham Partnership) M Johnston 8-9	J Weaver	◉

BETTING: 6-4 Jackson Falls, 7-4 Double Flight, 5-2 Lawn Lothario, 16-1 Manileno.

1995: LADYKIRK 8-9 N Connorton (25-1) J Watts 11 ran

2.25 SAM HALL AND DICK PEACOCK NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £4,698: 6f) (11 runners)

201	(9)	214340	BOLERO BOY 26 (G) (Sherriff Racing) M W Easterby 9-7	G Parkin (5)	98
202	(6)	4310	HAWAIT 32 (D,F) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) B Hills 8-13	K Fallon	91
203	(5)	2164	SECRET COMBE 40 (D,G) (Bakewell Bloodstock Ltd) P Makin 8-12	R Havlin (3)	90
204	(11)	243150	SKYERS FLYER 10 (F) (Mrs J Carney) R Thompson 8-10	A Daly (5)	98
205	(4)	134442	BURKES MANOR 18 (F) (M Burke Developments Ltd) T Barron 8-9	J Fortune	96
206	(1)	430	RAINBOW RAIN 17 (Maktoum Al Maktoum) M Johnston 8-6	J Weaver	95
207	(3)	3034	MARTINE 22 (Mrs M Clayton) A Bailey 8-6	D Wright (3)	91
208	(2)	3425	BLUES QUEEN 10 (Maygain Ltd) M Channon 8-4	J Carroll	92
209	(8)	2352	NIGHT FLIGHT 19 (C Stevens) J J O'Neill 8-1	J F Egan	90
210	(10)	433500	HIL RHAPSODY 12 (G) (A Rhead) B Palling 8-0	F Lynch (3)	◉
211	(7)	4351	NAIVASHA 26 (D,G) (Mrs J Hobby) J Berry 7-10	P Fessey (5)	91

BETTING: 9-2 Secret Combe, 5-1 Burkes Manor, Naivasha, 6-1 Night Flight, 7-1 Hawait, 8-1 others.

1995: KING OF PERU 8-4 J Tate (14-1) A Jarvis 17 ran

3.05 LADBROKE (AYR) SILVER CUP

C4

(Handicap: £12,428: 6f) (29 runners)

301	(9)	110806	SO INTREPID 7 (D,F,G,S) (E Hayward) J Bradley 6-9-10	T Williams	98
302	(16)	22-6522	NILGIRI HILLS 42 (BF) (A Struthers) J Dunlop 3-9-10	J Stack	88
303	(22)	323110	LA PETITE FUSEE 28 (D,F,G,S) (M Bevan) R O'Sullivan 5-9-9	R Havlin (3)	94
304	(6)	061230	PALO BLANCO 70 (CD,F,G) (J Brown) T Barron 5-9-9	J Fortune	90
305	(1)	201500	BOLLIN HARRY 32 (D,F,G) (Sir Neil Westbrook) T Easterby 4-9-9	M Birch	90
306	(7)	403130	STOPPES BROW 12 (V,D,F,G,S) (C Pennick) G L Moore 4-9-7	S Whitworth	92
307	(29)	101500	GARNOCK VALLEY 14 (C,D,F,G,S) (R Aird) J Berry 6-9-6	J Carroll	88
308	(24)	201224	KESTON POND 9 (CD,F,G) (Mrs A Mallinson) Mrs V Aconley 6-9-5	M Deering	95
309	(10)	000000	MASTER OF PASSION 8 (CD,F,G,S) (M Kwee) J Eustace 7-9-5	D R McCabe	96
310	(20)	110252	INDIAN RELATIVE 7 (D,F) (V Mallya) R Guest 3-9-4	D Griffiths (5)	94
311	(17)	040026	THE SCYTHIAN 35 (D,F) (D Blake) Bob Jones 4-9-3	N Day	93
312	(19)	03-3040	PHARMACY 51 (CD,F) (Lady Jane Kaplan) J Watts 3-9-3	T Sprake	89
313	(11)	060402	TART AND A HALF 10 (B,F) (P Boggis) B Meehan 4-9-2	D McKeown	◉
314	(12)	142540	STUFFED 32 (B,D,F) (Early Morning B'fast Synd) M W Easterby 4-9-1	G Parkin (5)	93
315	(13)	0-02163	MIDDLE EAST 26 (D,F) (Mrs J Hazell) T Barron 3-9-1	F Lynch (3)	90
316	(26)	002600	MISS WATERLINE 8 (D,S) (M Lawrence) P Evans 3-9-0	J F Egan	92
317	(18)	244100	DENBRAE 14 (D,F,G) (M Mellersh) D Murray Smith 4-9-0	J Weaver	91
318	(8)	000512	BRECONGILL LAD 24 (D,F,G) Miss S Hall 4-8-13	Emma O'Gorman	97
319	(5)	231022	WARDARA 9 (V,D,F,G,S) (Binding Matters Ltd) C Dwyer 4-8-13	S Drowne	98
320	(27)	664051	CRETAN GIFT 5 (B,D,F,G) (R M Ltd) N Littmoden 5-8-12	T McLaughlin	98
321	(28)	151210	BEE HEALTH BOY 7 (B,D,F,S) (Bee Health Ltd) M W Easterby 3-8-12	R Mullen (7)	95
322	(25)	131210	THWAAB 34 (B,CD,F) (J Blythe) F Watson 4-8-9	G Hind	93
323	(21)	560560	MISTER WESTSOUND 14 (B,CD,F) (D Sutherland) Miss L Perratt 4-8-9	P Clarke (7)	95
324	(3)	133210	OATEY 8 (F,G) (R Barnett) Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-7	K Fallon	93
325	(4)	052110	NAISSANT 16 (D,G,S) (W Graham) R McKellar 3-8-7	K Sked (7)	98
326	(2)	102425	FINISTERRE 18 (D,G) (Les Femmes Fatales) J J O'Neill 3-8-6	D Jewett (7)	89
327	(23)	5-00000	DICTATION 18 (E Brook) J J O'Neill 4-8-6	Dana O'Neill	85
328	(15)	0-51120	KING OF SHOW 24 (V,C,F) (R Allan) R Allan 5-8-4	A Daly (5)	95
329	(14)	030053	AMRON 2 (CD,F,G,S) (R Peebles) J Berry 9-8-2	A McGlone	96

BETTING: 8-1 Indian Relative, 9-1 Cretan Gift, 10-1 Keston Pond, 14-1 Thwaab, 16-1 Denbrae, La Petite Fusee, Miss Waterline, 20-1 Garnock Valley, Middle East, Oatey, Stuffed, The Scythian, 25-1 others.

1995: KESTON POND 5-8-5 R Cochrane (10-1) D Wilson 28 ran

FORM FOCUS

PALO BLANCO 2l 3rd of 13 to Saceedo in handicap at Pontefract (6f, good to firm) with BOLLIN HARRY (2lb better off) 1l 5th with MISS WATERLINE (2lb better off) 1¾l 12th. TART AND A HALF ½l 2nd of 8 to Tuscan Dawn in handicap at Epsom (5f, good to firm). BRECONGILL LAD 1¾l 3rd of 14 to Just Dissident in handicap at Carlisle (5f, good) with KING OF SHOW 6½l 11th and GARNOCK VALLEY 3l 14th. CRETAN GIFT beat Another Batchworth [illegible] in 15-runner handicap at Nottingham (5f, good to firm). BEE HEALTH BOY beat Don Pepe neck in 8-runner apprentices' handicap at Newmarket (5f, good to soft) with INDIAN RELATIVE (4lb better off) 5½l 5th. OATEY beat Halbert neck in handicap at Thirsk (5f, good).
Selection: PALO BLANCO

3.35 STAKIS CASINOS DOONSIDE CUP

C4

(Listed race: £12,244: 1m 2f 192yd) (7 runners)

401	(2)	202315	BEHAVIOUR 28 (F) (J Stone) Mrs J Cecil 4-8-[illegible]	J Carroll	93
402	(6)	6-60334	DESERT SHOT 8 (F,G) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) M Stoute 6-8-11	K Fallon	92
403	(7)	36/2005-	DONE WELL 301J (G) ([illegible]) P Monteith 4-8-11	A Mackay	77
404	(3)	0/12155	KEY TO MY HEART 35 (F,G,S) (Mrs M Pickering) Miss S Hall 6-8-11	J Weaver	◉
405	(4)	21-2036	FLYFISHER 72 (G) (A Balzarini) G Lewis 5-8-4	A McGlone	85
406	(1)	411-040	WOOD MAGIC 18 (G,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) D Loder 3-8-4	D R McCabe	90
407	(5)	333331	RAGTIME COWGIRL 23 (D,F) ([illegible]) D Nolan 3-7-13	P Fessey	50

BETTING: 7-4 Key To My Heart, 5-2 Behaviour, Desert Shot, 5-1 Flyfisher, 14-1 Wood Magic, 20-1 others.

1995: ANNUS MIRABILIS 3-8-4 D McCabe ([illegible]) M Stoute 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BEHAVIOUR beat Hoh Express 1½l in handicap at Ascot (1m 2f, good). DESERT SHOT 4l 4th to Busy Flight in listed race at Doncaster (1m 4f, good to firm). KEY TO MY HEART 9l 5th to Phantom Gold in group 3 Geoffrey Freer Stakes at Newbury (1m 5f 61yd, good). WOOD MAGIC 4½l 4th to Amrak Ajeeb in handicap at York (1m 2f, good).
Selection: BEHAVIOUR

4.15 LADBROKE (AYR) GOLD CUP

C4

(Handicap: £51,630: 6f) (29 runners)

501	(28)	231-011	COASTAL BLUFF 49 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs D Starr) T Barron 4-9-10	J Fortune	94
502	(6)	003050	HARD TO FIGURE 17 (CD,F,G,S) ([illegible]) R Hodges 10-9-6	G Lee (5)	87
503	(20)	446100	EMERGING MARKET 49 (D,F) ([illegible]) J Dunlop 4-9-6	A McGlone	88
504	(2)	123151	WILDWOOD FLOWER 28 (D,F,G) (G Howard-Spink) R Hannon 3-9-2	Dane O'Neill	90
505	(25)	532123	DOUBLE SPLENDOUR 17 (D,F,G,S) ([illegible]) P Felgate 6-9-1	G Hind	95
506	(27)	0/63232	PRINCE BABAR 42 (G) (G Pritchard-Gordon) J Banks 5-9-1	D Griffiths (5)	91
507	(19)	0-44561	BABSY BABE 77 (D,F,G) ([illegible]) J [illegible] 3-8-12	A Mackay	87
508	(4)	151001	PATSY GRIMES 36 (D,F,G,S) ([illegible]) J Moore 6-8-12	P P Murphy (5)	91
509	(16)	1-03126	DOUBLE BOUNCE 32 (D,F,G) (Mrs P Scott-Dunn) P Makin 6-8-11	R Havlin (3)	95
510	(14)	213004	TEDBURROW 10 (C,D,F,G) (P Davies) Mrs A Naughton 4-8-11	J Carroll	93
511	(18)	102051	SELHURSTPARK FLYER 10 (D,F,G,S) J Berry 5-8-11 (3ex)	P Roberts (5)	◉
512	(13)	20-0051	MUSICAL SEASON 10 (G,S) (P Savill) T Barron 4-8-11 (7ex)	J F Egan	92
513	(24)	452531	DON'T CARE 47 (B,D,G) (C McLaren) Miss L Perratt 5-8-10	J Weaver	–
514	(12)	321202	SYLVA PARADISE 10 (D,F,S) ([illegible]) C Brittain 3-8-9	D Wright (3)	96
515	(8)	101445	BOLSHOI 10 (B,F) (Mrs D Brown) J Berry 4-8-9	Emma O'Gorman	93
516	(26)	1-60412	SAMWAR 28 (D,BF,G) (Maygain Ltd) Miss Gay Kelleway 4-8-9	N Day	93
517	(10)	153350	SIR JOEY 10 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs A Sims) P Murphy 7-8-8	S Drowne	90
518	(21)	103210	SEA-DEER 10 (D,F,G,S) (Binding Matters Ltd) C Dwyer 7-8-8	J Stack	92
519	(9)	054443	LAGO DI VARANO 10 (V,C,F,G,S) (PBT Group) R Whitaker 4-8-7	D McKeown	93
520	(11)	430060	SHAMANIC 10 (D,F,G) ([illegible]) R Hannon 4-8-6	R Perham	94
521	(5)	223115	BOLLIN JOANNE 35 (D,BF,F) (Lady Westbrook) T Easterby 3-8-6	M Birch	93
522	(7)	04-0313	HAWA AL NASAMAAT 42 (D,F) (M Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 4-8-5	S Whitworth	87
523	(22)	030036	FOR THE PRESENT 10 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Hazell) T Barron 6-8-4	F Lynch (3)	94
524	(17)	212200	TILER 10 (C,D,F,S) (Mrs C Robinson) M Johnston 4-8-4	T Williams	93
525	(3)	214030	BAJAN ROSE 21 (D,F,G,S) (C McKenna) M Blanshard 4-8-4	A Daly (5)	90
526	(23)	315230	GOLDEN POUND 32 (D,F) (A Griffin) Miss G Kelleway 4-8-4	D R McCabe	91
527	(1)	043042	ZIGGY'S DANCER 11 (D,F,G) (J Barry) E Alston 5-8-4	Stephen Davies	98
528	(15)	033210	BENZOE 32 (CD,F,S) (T Fawcett) Mrs J Ramsden 6-8-3	K Fallon	92
529	(29)	005212	MR BERGERAC 43 (D,F,G,S) (P John) B Palling 5-8-3	T Sprake	91

BETTING: 4-1 Coastal Bluff, 8-1 Samwar, 12-1 Double Bounce, Double Splendour, For The Present, 14-1 Prince Babar, 16-1 Don't Care, Miss Waterline, Selhurstpark Flyer, Wildwood Flower, 20-1 others.

1995: ROYALE FIGURINE 4-8-9 D Holland (8-1) M Fetherston-Godley 29 ran

FORM FOCUS

COASTAL BLUFF beat DOUBLE BOUNCE (9lb better off) 3l in Vodac Stewards' Cup at Goodwood (6f, good to firm) with SIR JOEY (12lb better off) 1¾l 3rd, BOLSHOI (6lb better off) head 4th, WILDWOOD FLOWER (8lb better off) 1l 5th, SHAMANIC (15lb better off) 1l 11th, LAGO DI VARANO (13lb better off) ¾l 12th, SYLVA PARADISE (8lb better off) 1l 15th, EMERGING MARKET (13lb better off) short-head 16th, SELHURSTPARK FLYER (14lb better off) neck 17th, FOR THE PRESENT (12lb better off) 2½l 23rd and HARD TO FIGURE (21lb better off) 1¼l 26th. WILDWOOD FLOWER beat SAMWAR (2lb better off) ¾l in 16-runner handicap at Goodwood (6f, good) with SIR JOEY (6lb better off) 2½l 5th. MUSICAL SEASON beat SYLVA PARADISE (7lb better off) 1¼l in Tote-Portland Handicap at Doncaster (5f 140yd, good) with LAGO DI VARANO (5lb better) short-head 3rd, TEDBURROW (6lb better) ½l 4th, BOLSHOI (7lb better) neck 5th, FOR THE PRESENT (7lb better) head 6th, SIR JOEY (7lb better) 1¼l 9th, SEA-DEER (7lb better) ¾l 12th and TILER (7lb better) 3¼l 16th. HAWA AL NASAMAAT beat TILER (4lb better) 2½l in rating related stakes at Goodwood (6f, good to firm).
Selection: SYLVA PARADISE

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 . B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

4.45 JOHNNIE WALKER WHISKY HANDICAP

C4

(£6,264: 1m 5f 13yd) (11 runners)

601	(11)	3/20205-	SHONARA'S WAY 173J (G,S) (A Guthrie) P Monteith 5-10-0	J Bramhill (7)	95
602	(10)	323131	FAR AHEAD 14 (F,G,S) (Sunpak Potatoes) J Eyre 4-9-12	R Lappin	95
603	(8)	330206	DEANO'S BEENO 10 (F) (P Dean) M Johnston 4-9-1	J Weaver	◉
604	(2)	022140	MENTALASANYTHIN 2 (C,D,F,G,S) (H O'Donnell) D Haydn Jones 7-8-13	A Mackay	96
605	(4)	032502	FLOATING LINE 22 (F,G,S) (G Lowe) E Alston 8-8-11	K Fallon	95
606	(6)	215226	COIS NA FARRAIGE 81 (F) (T Finch) Miss L Perratt 3-8-9	J Carroll	–
607	(3)	234121	DURHAM 15 (B,F,G) (The Secret Partnership) H Howe 5-8-3	S Whitworth	95
608	(9)	20155-0	MARCHANT MING 21 (F) (R Roper) M Hammond 4-8-1	P Fessey (5)	90
609	(5)	340400	HAND OF STRAW 9 (V,G) (Mrs A Sims) P Murphy 4-7-10	T Williams	93
610	(7)	406045	ELA MAN HOWA 22 (B,D,F,G) (The Ponte Club) A Bailey 5-7-10	D Wright (3)	91
611	(1)	336300	LORD ADVOCATE 19 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J M-Murray) D Nolan 8-7-10	K Sked (7)	89

Long handicap: Hand Of Straw 7-9, Ela Man Howa 7-4, Lord Advocate 7-3.

BETTING: 3-1 Far Ahead, 7-2 Floating Line, 5-1 Mentalasanythin, 7-1 Deano's Beeno, 8-1 Durham, Marchant Ming, 12-1 Shonara's Way, 14-1 others.

1995: TORCH VERT 3-9-0 D Holland (11-2) B Hills 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

FAR AHEAD beat Tessajoe head in 19-runner handicap at Thirsk (1m 4f, good to firm). DEANO'S BEANO head 2nd of 7 to Fancy Heights in handicap at Haydock (1m 6f, good to firm). MENTALASANYTHIN 3½l 4th of 17 to Clifton Fox in handicap at Doncaster (1m 2f 60yd, good to firm). FLOATING LINE neck 2nd of 9 to Izza in handicap at Chester (2m, good to soft). COIS NA FARRAIGE 2l 2nd of 10 to Sentosa Star in handicap at Tipperary (1m 4f, good to firm). DURHAM beat Ayunli 4l in handicap at Kempton (1m 6f 92yd, good).
Selection: FLOATING LINE

5.15 SPH PROPERTY SEARCH HANDICAP (£6,420: 7f) (12 runners)

1	(6)	114105	MY GALLERY 7 (CD,F,G,S) (R Cox) A Bailey 5-10-0	D Wright (3)	94
2	(11)	220314	PERSIAN FAYRE 14 (C,D,F,G) (M Grubb) J Berry 4-9-0	J Carroll	96
3	(2)	035000	CHAMPAGNE GRANDY 9 (D,F,G,S) M Channon 6-8-13	P P Murphy (5)	98
4	(8)	252344	CASHMERE LADY 29 (D,G) (Mrs S Howe) J Eyre 4-8-13	R Lappin	90
5	(4)	624500	FAME AGAIN 14 (D,G,S) (M Charlton) Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-12	K Fallon	◉
6	(10)	021210	CELEBRATION CAKE 17 (C,F) (Lightbody Ltd) Miss L Perratt 4-8-9	J Weaver	97
7	(5)	616021	KING CURAN 19 (V,CD,F,G,S) (H O'Donnell) D Haydn Jones 5-8-7	G Hind	93
8	(1)	560560	MISTER WESTSOUND 14 (B,C,F) (I Hay) Miss L Perratt 4-8-3	DOUBTFUL	–
9	(3)	114315	NATURAL KEY 2 (F,G) (H O'Donnell) D Haydn Jones 3-8-2	A Mackay	96
10	(9)	044016	SUPERPRIDE 27 (CD,G,S) (Mrs M Ward) Mrs M Reveley 4-8-1	T Williams	93
11	(7)	151320	MURRAY'S MAZDA 70 (C,D,F,G,S) (M Grubb) J Eyre 7-7-10	A McCarthy (7)	88
12	(12)	204330	MISS PIGALLE 15 (B,D,F) (Miss H Galbraith) Miss L Perratt 5-7-10	P Fessey (5)	79

Long handicap: Murray's Mazda 7-5, Miss Pigalle 6-8.

BETTING: 3-1 King Curan, 9-2 Natural Key, 6-1 Celebration Cake, 7-1 My Gallery, Superpride, 8-1 Persian Fayre, Cachmere Lady, 10-1 others.

1995: MARY'S CASE 5-8-1 M Roberts (12-1) M Johnston 15 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
P Makin	3	6	50.0	N Day	3	10	30.0
B Hills	18	49	36.7	J Bramhill	4	16	25.0
M Stoute	9	27	33.3	M Tebbutt	4	20	20.0
J Dunlop	9	28	32.1	J Weaver	20	119	16.8
Mrs J Ramsden	13	64	20.3	J Stack	5	32	15.6
Mrs M Reveley	19	98	19.4	K Fallon	18	130	13.8

☐ Geoff Wragg sends a dual challenge to France this weekend, with Beneficial (Michael Hills) running in today's group three La Coupe de Maisons-Laffitte over ten furlongs, which is also the target of Clive Brittain's Musetta (Brett Doyle). Tomorrow, Wragg's Sasuru (Hills) bids to follow up his Prix Guillaume d'Ornano win at Deauville in the group three Prix du Prince d'Orange over 1¼ miles at Longchamp.

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

1.40 Lamorna
2.10 Tamhid
2.40 Trojan Risk
3.10 Kutta
3.40 Indian Rocket
4.10 **AIR COMMODORE** (nap)
4.40 Speedball

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 **INDIAN ROCKET.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.10 Red Carnival.
3.40 **SAMBAC** (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

1.40 WEST BYFLEET SOCIAL CLUB NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £5,186: 5f 34yd) (7 runners)

1	(1)	615431	RUDI'S PET 22 (D,G) (Broadgate Partners) R Hannon 9-7	Pat Eddery	96
2	(3)	1055	MELIKSAH 21 (D,F) (Y Birol) M Bell 8-12	G Faulkner (5)	89
3	(6)	3122	DANCETHENIGHTAWAY 15 (D,G) (G Bailey) B Meehan 8-11	Martin Dwyer (5)	◉
4	(2)	035015	LAMORNA 21 (F,G) (W Ponsonby) M Channon 8-6	A Eddery (7)	98
5	(4)	433	RUBY TUESDAY 22 (Canton Corporation) B McMahon 8-5	S Sanders	93
6	(7)	351	SILCA KEY SILCA 31 (G) (Aldridge Racing) M Channon 8-2	C Rutter	89
7	(5)	6004	TAILWIND 15 (R Hafez) W Muir 7-10	P Doe (7)	86

Long handicap: Tailwind 7-3.

BETTING: 7-4 Dancethenightaway, 11-4 Rudi's Pet, 6-1 Silca Key Silca, 7-1 Ruby Tuesday, 8-1 Meliksah, Lamorna, 12-1 Tailwind.

1995: WILLOW DALE 9-3 Paul Eddery (8-1) D Elsworth 12 ran

2.10 KPMG CONDITIONS STAKES

BBC1

(£4,967: 1m 1f) (8 runners)

1	(8)	201-104	NIGHT CITY 86 (CD,S) (Dexam International) Lady Herries 5-9-6	Declan O'Shea	85
2	(4)	0010-54	CELESTIAL KEY 7 (C,BF,F,G) (M Brodrick) M Johnston 6-9-0	M Henry (3)	91
3	(5)	3-144	LONELY LEADER 8 (F) (S Suhail) R Hannon 3-8-11	R Hughes	88
4	(7)	416232	PHANTOM QUEST 38 (BF,F) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 3-8-11	Pat Eddery	85
5	(3)	43321-	PROPER BLUE 396 (F) (M Legg) T Mills 3-8-9	W Ryan	80
6	(6)	11/323-	RED CARNIVAL 345 (F,G) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 4-8-9	L Dettori	◉
7	(1)	1-44032	TAMHID 16 (F) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) H Thomson Jones 3-8-9	R Hills	98
8	(2)	6213-40	TRIA KEMATA 37 (V,S) (Hesmonds Stud) J Dunlop 3-8-9	R Cochrane	80

BETTING: 5-2 Red Carnival, 11-4 Tamhid, 100-30 Phantom Quest, 7-1 Lonely Leader, Night City, 8-1 Celestial Key, 10-1 others.

1995: WIJARA 3-9-2 R Perham (10-1) R Hannon 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

NIGHT CITY 2½l 4th of 8 to Louis' Queen in conditions race here (1m, good to firm). CELESTIAL KEY 6¼l 4th of 8 to Star Of Zilzal in handicap at Goodwood (7f, good). LONELY LEADER 1½l 4th of 8 to Polar Prince in conditions race at Goodwood (7f, good).
PHANTOM QUEST ¾l 2nd of 8 to Centre Stalls in conditions race at Sandown (1m, good to firm) with TAMHID (2lb worse off) neck 3rd. PROPER BLUE beat General Rose short-head in 7-runner nursery at Brighton (7f, firm). TAMHID 3l 2nd of 9 to Even Top in listed race at York (1m 1f, good) with CELESTIAL KEY 2½l 5th.
Selection: PHANTOM QUEST

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
J Gosden	35	134	26.1	L Dettori	43	221	19.5
B Hanbury	10	54	18.5	A Whelan	3	17	17.6
Lady Herries	9	49	18.4	Pat Eddery	44	277	15.9
H Cecil	17	96	17.7	W Ryan	14	94	14.9
M Johnston	4	28	14.3	R Cochrane	20	169	11.8
G Lewis	9	67	13.4	S Sanders	4	40	10.0

2.40 COURAGE HANDICAP

BBC1

(£16,043: 1m 2f 6yd) (17 runners)

1	(7)	0615-63	INQUISITOR 33 (D,BF,G) (K Abdulla) J Gosden 4-10-0	L Dettori	89
2	(13)	023552	CLAN BEN 10 (F,S) (Angus Dundee) H Cecil 4-9-6	Pat Eddery	94
3	(6)	620140	BARDON HILL BOY 10 (D,F,G) (Ms M Breslin) B Hanbury 4-9-2	W Ryan	94
4	(10)	005025	BRANDON MAGIC 16 (B,G,S) (R Michaelson) I Balding 3-9-0	R Hughes	94
5	(17)	250203	SPECIAL DAWN 21 (D,F,G,S) (Windflower Inc) J Dunlop 6-8-12	J Tate	94
6	(3)	360000	HARDY DANCER 10 (F) (P Higson) G L Moore 4-8-11	A Whelan (3)	91
7	(16)	0/12500-	GONE FOR A BURTON 371 (D,F,S) (H Carrington) P Makin 6-8-9	G Duffield	89
8	(14)	030010	AT LIBERTY 30 (D,F,G) (B Adams) R Hannon 4-8-8	D Biggs	93
9	(12)	111302	GAME PLOY 9 (D,F,G) (K Kynaston) D Haydn Jones 4-8-5	R Cochrane	97
10	(9)	0/0400	KING ATHELSTAN 28 (D,F) (T Gidsa) B McMahon 8-8-5	S Sanders	◉
11	(11)	061135	DIMINUTIVE 10 (D,F) (Gainsbury Partners) J Hills 3-8-2	M Henry (3)	93
12	(15)	021505	THREE HILLS 8 (B,D,G) (K Abdulla) B Hills 3-8-1	R Hills	96
13	(4)	621232	TROJAN RISK 10 (BF,F) (J McCarthy) G Lewis 3-7-13	C Rutter	98
14	(1)	001U20	EDAN HEIGHTS 21 (S) (T Mountain) S Dow 4-7-12	N Carlisle	95
15	(5)	0-4310	MILFORD SOUND 34 (F) (CIT Racing) J Fanshawe 3-7-12	N Varley (3)	93
16	(8)	321100	ASKERN 8 (D,F) (H O'Donnell) D Haydn Jones 5-7-10	Declan O'Shea	92
17	(2)	202006	FAHS 7 (G) (City Industrial Supplies) R Akehurst 4-7-10	Martin Dwyer (5)	91

Long handicap: Fahs 7-6.

BETTING: 6-1 Game Ploy, 7-1 Trojan Risk, 8-1 Inquisitor, Clan Ben, 9-1 Special Dawn, 10-1 Gone For A Burton, 12-1 Brandon Magic, Edan Heights, 16-1 others.

1995: KUTTA 3-8-5 W Carson (4-1) R Armstrong 20 ran

FORM FOCUS

CLAN BEN 6l 2nd of 11 to Ninia in handicap at Epsom (1m 2f, good to firm) with DIMINUTIVE (1lb better off) 2½l 5th, BARDON HILL BOY 6½l 9th and HARDY DANCER 21l 10th. BRANDON MAGIC 6¼l 5th of 11 to Arabian Story in handicap at York (1m 4f, good).
GAME PLOY short-head 2nd of 15 to Soviet Bride in handicap at Chepstow (1m 2f, good to firm). THREE HILLS 5¼l 5th of 13 to Spillo in handicap at Doncaster (1m 4f, good to firm) with ASKERN (1lb better off) 25l 10th. TROJAN RISK 3½l 2nd of 11 to Oops Pettie in rating related stakes at Doncaster (1m 2f 60yd, good).
Selection: TROJAN RISK (nap)

3.10 TOTE BOOKMAKERS AUTUMN CUP

BBC1

(Handicap: £14,720: 1m 5f 61yd) (13 runners)

1	(12)	41061-0	KUTTA 70 (C,G,S) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) R Armstrong 4-10-0	R Hills	89
2	(2)	4330-60	WHITECHAPEL 14 (CD,G,S) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 8-9-5	L Dettori	◉
3	(4)	604055	REMAADI SUN 14 (F) (T Barker) M Usher 4-9-0	R Street	93
4	(3)	2-11534	GENERAL MACARTHUR 16 (F) (I Cameron) J Dunlop 3-9-0	Pat Eddery	95
5	(5)	3630-00	SHADOW LEADER 63 (S) (J Blackshaw) C Egerton 5-8-9	R Hughes	90
6	(6)	1-11111	BALLYNAKELLY 38 (D,F,G) (Y Partnership) R Akehurst 4-8-8	S Sanders	95
7	(10)	241100	LALINDI 63 (B,F,G,S) (White Horse Racing) D Elsworth 5-8-6	N Carlisle	91
8	(9)	463462	MIDYAN BLUE 17 (G) (K Palmer) J Eustace 6-8-5	R Cochrane	97
9	(11)	213404	SHARAF 43 (B,F) (D Deer) W Muir 3-8-4	O Urbina	91
10	(8)	5-00465	TRUANCY 84 (BF,F) (J Funnell) C Mann 3-8-2	M Henry (3)	90
11	(1)	4-60300	NO PATTERN 14 (F,G) (K Higson) G L Moore 4-8-1	Martin Dwyer (5)	89
12	(7)	4/0100/	HIGH SUMMER 778 (F,G) (D Wilson) T Thomson Jones 6-8-0	–	–
13	(13)	135004	BOWLED OVER 10 (G) (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 3-7-13	J Tate	98

BETTING: 2-1 Ballynakelly, 4-1 Midyan Blue, 7-1 General Macarthur, 8-1 Whitechapel, 10-1 Kutta, 12-1 Lalindi, 14-1 Sharaf, 16-1 others.

1995: WHITECHAPEL 7-9-0 D Harrison (12-1) Lord Huntingdon 23 ran

FORM FOCUS

KUTTA beat Ball Gown 1l in 20-runner handicap here (1m 2f, good to soft).
REMAADI SUN 11¾l 5th of 12 to Dacha in handicap at Haydock (1m 4f, good to firm) with WHITECHAPEL (3lb worse off) 6½l 8th.
BALLYNAKELLY beat Jiyush 1½l in 9-runner handicap at Sandown (1m 6f, good to firm). GENERAL MACARTHUR 5¾l 4th of 11 to Arabian Story in handicap at York (1m 4f, good). MIDYAN BLUE ½l 2nd of 19 to Jiyush in handicap at York (1m 6f, good). BOWLED OVER 6¼l 4th of 11 to Oops Pettie in rating related stakes at Doncaster (1m 2f 60yd, good).
Selection: MIDYAN BLUE

☐ Luso, the Clive Brittain-trained colt, heads a powerful British challenge for the EMS Kurierpost Europa Preis over a mile and a half at Cologne tomorrow. Michael Kinane's mount had to be withdrawn after injuring himself on the plane. The group one race has also attracted Lord Huntingdon's Swiss Derby winner, Mongol Warrior (David Harrison), plus the Goodwood and Doncaster Cup-placed Lear White.

3.40 BONUSPRINT MILL REEF STAKES

BBC1

(Group II: 2-Y-O: £33,085: 6f 8yd) (11 runners)

1	(9)	411	ANDREYEV 21 (D,F,S) (J Palmer-Brown) R Hannon 8-12	R Hughes	95
2	(2)	1	GENERAL SONG 10 (G) (General Horse Advertising) K McAuliffe 8-12	G Duffield	–
3	(1)	21211	INDIAN ROCKET 26 (D,F,G,S) (K Alsayegh) J Dunlop 8-12	R Hills	◉
4	(3)	210202	MASERATI MONK 14 (D,G) (Three Bears Racing) B Meehan 8-12	S Sanders	92
5	(4)	36360	MILLROY 8 (B) (Exors of R Belderson) P Kelleway 8-12	M Wigham	75
6	(6)	12422	OMAHA CITY 22 (F) (B Gubby) B Gubby 8-12	Pat Eddery	88
7	(11)	5556	OUT OF SIGHT 18 (D Allen) B McMahon 8-12	D Biggs	79
8	(7)	11140	PROUD NATIVE 31 (D,F,G) (L Fust) A Jarvis 8-12	R Cochrane	87
9	(8)	21	VASARI 136 (G) (A Tuckerman) M Channon 8-12	–	77
10	(10)	113	SEEBE 30 (D,BF,F) (G Strawbridge) I Balding 8-10	L Dettori	93
11	(5)	3111	SAMBAC 22 (D,F,S) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 8-7	W Ryan	94

BETTING: 5-2 Sambac, 100-30 Seebe, 9-2 Andreyev, 5-1 Indian Rocket, 7-1 Maserati Monk, 8-1 others.

1995: KAHIR ALMAYDAN 8-12 W Carson (2-1) J Dunlop 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

ANDREYEV beat Close Relative 4l at Chester (6f, good to soft). INDIAN ROCKET beat OMAHA CITY (3lb worse off) 3l at Ripon (6f, good to soft). PROUD NATIVE 4½l 4th of 7 to Easycall in group II Richmond Stakes at Goodwood (6f, good to firm). SEEBE neck and ½l 3rd of 9 to Bianca Nera in Lowther Stakes at York (6f, good to firm). SAMBAC beat Olympic Spirit 5l in 6-runner conditions race at Chester (6f, good to soft).
Selection: SEEBE

4.10 ROTHMANS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE SERIES SEMI-FINAL HANDICAP (£17,750: 1m 6f md) (16 runners)

1	(6)	111011	CONCER UN 22 (D,F,G,S) (Miss L Ward) S Williams 4-10-0	J Tate	97
2	(3)	0016-00	AIR COMMODORE 9 (D,F,G) (W Ponsonby) D Arbuthnot 5-9-2	Pat Eddery	94
3	(7)	460120	SAIFAN 27 (V,D,F,G) (Mrs L Brook) D Morris 7-9-2	L Dettori	◉
4	(12)	111004	CATCH THE LIGHTS 16 (D,F,G) (T Johnsey) R Hannon 3-8-9	R Cochrane	98
5	(13)	013063	SLIP JIG 26 (S) (J Horgan) R Hannon 3-8-8	C Rutter	90
6	(8)	062500	DANEGOLD 9 (V,D,F,G,S) (Dream Team) M Channon 4-8-7	–	98
7	(2)	011422	MAZCOBAR 26 (D,BF,F,G) (A Schiff) P Makin 3-8-7	S Sanders	96
8	(10)	0/0200-5	ABSOLUTE MAGIC 21 (F,S) (Mrs B Bassett) W Haggas 6-8-5	R Hills	91
9	(16)	00-2233	EASY JET 84 (BF) (Crown Partners) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-5	O Urbina	92
10	(1)	040000	MO-ADDAB 34 (D,F,G,S) (S Hammond) A Stewart 6-8-4	W Ryan	92
11	(15)	020066	BLAZE OF SONG 29 (V,D,G,S) (D Boocock) R Hannon 4-8-3	D Biggs	90
12	(14)	24-5224	BON LUCK 29 (J Ruggles) J Fanshawe 4-8-1	N Varley (3)	95
13	(11)	14/45-50	SHAMROCK FAIR 21 (F) (G Bruton) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-1	M Henry (3)	90
14	(5)	120065	COOL FIRE 14 (D,G) (D Sullivan) S Woods 3-7-11	Declan O'Shea	88
15	(9)	001000	ARTFUL DANE 8 (V,D,F) (S Lansdown Racing) M Heaton-Ellis 4-7-10	N Carlisle	88
16	(4)	413160	SYLVAN PRINCESS 14 (D,BF,F) (Camelot) C Allen 3-7-10	Martin Dwyer (5)	98

BETTING: 5-1 Easy Jet, 6-1 Concer Un, 7-1 Absolute Magic, 8-1 Saifan, Shamrock Fair, 12-1 others

1995: ALMOND ROCK 3-8-6 D Harrison (12-1) J Fanshawe 20 ran

4.40 EBF HARWELL MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,198: 6f) (24 runners)

1	(20)		BEGORRAT (R Bernard) B Meehan 9-0	D Biggs	–
2	(14)	6	CARLTON 112 (G Moore) G Lewis 9-0	A Whelan (3)	–
3	(19)		GEE BEE BOY (Grant & Bowman) A Jarvis 9-0	J Tate	–
4	(24)		ISLAND PRINCE (J R Leisure) N Callaghan 9-0	–	–
5	(9)	0	KLONDIKE CHARGER 45 (Maktoum Al Maktoum) B Hills 9-0	R Hughes	82
6	(13)		MR MAJICA (C Metcalfe) B Meehan 9-0	M Tebbutt	–
7	(3)		MR PARADISE (G Archer) T Naughton 9-0	S Sanders	–
8	(2)		MUTASAWWAR (Hamdan Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 9-0	R Hills	–
9	(16)		REFUSE TO LOSE (J Smith) J Eustace 9-0	R Cochrane	–
10	(1)		RHAPSODY IN WHITE (Mrs C Stevenson) M Jarvis 9-0	P Bloomfield	–
11	(8)		ROTOR MAN (Mrs J Lee) J Bethell 9-0	O Urbina	–
12	(18)		SHARPEST (Lord Chelsea) J Dunlop 9-0	M Wigham	–
13	(22)	3	SPEEDBALL 16 (J Smith) I Balding 9-0	Pat Eddery	97
14	(21)	04	TOM TAILOR 30 (A A Partnership) D Elsworth 9-0	N Carlisle	88
15	(10)		WELCOME HEIGHTS (Most Welcome) M Fetherston-Godley 9-0	Declan O'Shea	–
16	(7)	036	BEWITCHING LADY 35 (N Desmond Cronin) D Arbuthnot 8-9	–	92
17	(17)		DESPINA (Lord Chelsea) H Candy 8-9	C Rutter	–
18	(5)	33	HOPESAY 14 (K Abdulla) J Gosden 8-9	L Dettori	◉
19	(15)	22	INCLINATION 22 (BF) (D Brown) M Blanshard 8-9	–	94
20	(23)		ISCA MAIDEN (Welsh Connection) P Hayward 8-9	–	–
21	(11)		LONELY HEART (C Harper) D Chapple 8-9	N Varley (3)	–
22	(12)		MISTY RAIN (R Richards) B Hills 8-9	A Eddery (7)	–
23	(6)		SABINA (The Queen) I Balding 8-9	Martin Dwyer (5)	–
24	(4)	4	SHIFTING TIME 47 (J Smith) I Balding 8-9	W Ryan	89

BETTING: 7-4 Speedball, 6-1 Sharpest, 7-1 Shifting Time, Mutasawwar, 10-1 Misty Rain, 12-1 others.

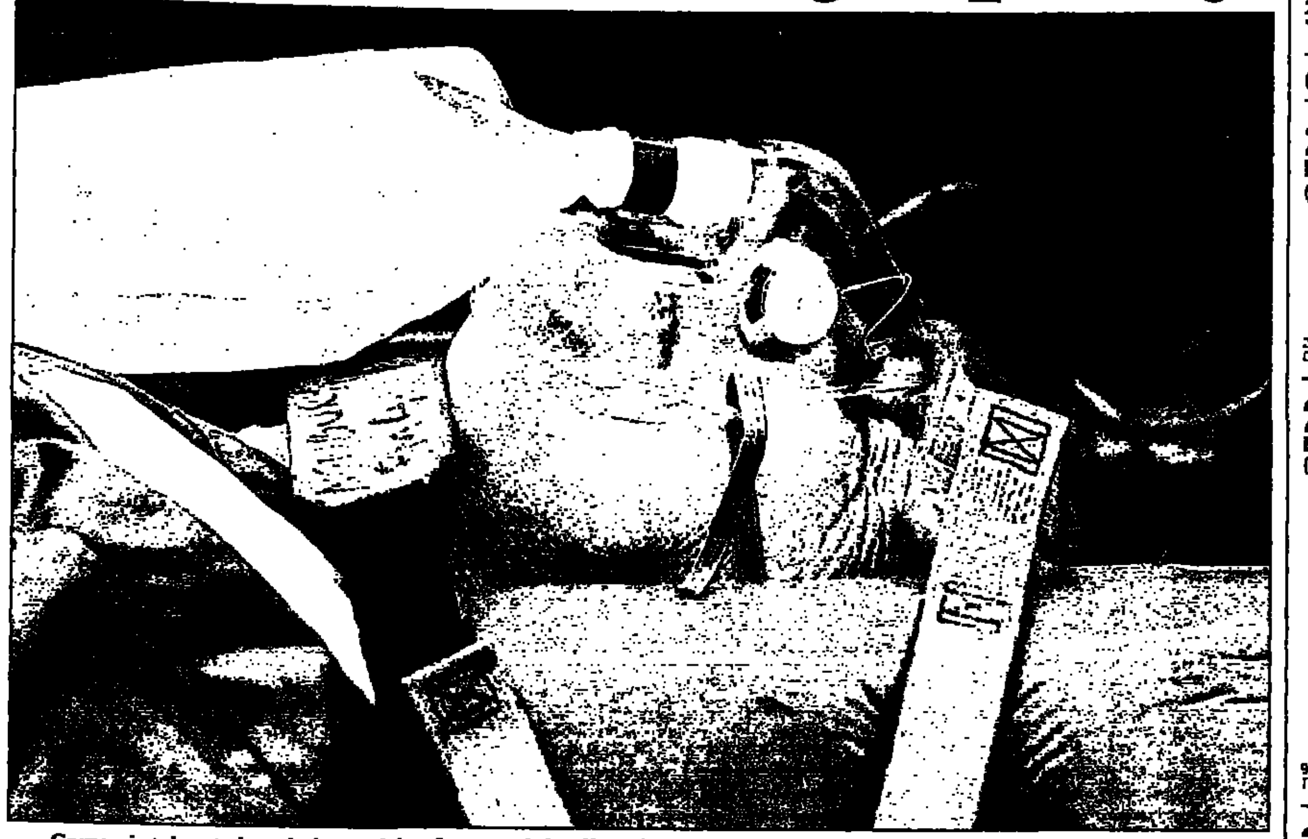
1995: SOVEREIGN'S CROWN 9-0 G Hind (4-1) J Gosden 25 ran

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Carson's career put in jeopardy

By Julian Muscat



Carson is taken to hospital on a drip after sustaining liver damage at Newbury yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert

THE final memories Willie Carson may have of his lengthy career may prove the most painful. Carson intimated before the Derby in June that he would retire at the end of the year but his season almost certainly ended prematurely yesterday, when he was violently kicked by a horse in the paddock at Newbury.

Five times the champion jockey, Carson, 53, suffered lacerations to his liver when Meshhed, an unraced two-year-old trained by Ben Hanbury, whipped round and kicked him in the stomach. The injury was diagnosed on his arrival at North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke, where he will be detained for at least two weeks. His condition was last night described by staff at Basingstoke General Hospital as "stable".

Rumours of Carson's retirement have circulated the racing grapevine for the last three years. But the jockey, handsomely retained to ride the horses owned by Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum, has reappeared every March to ride through the season. He said last year that the temptation to ride Alhaarth, the champion juvenile, in this season's classics was too powerful to resist.

Now he is faced with the same carrot: Skeihk Hamdan owns Bahhare, the favourite for next year's 2,000 Guineas. And Sarayir, a half-sister to Nashwan, one of Carson's favourite horses, displayed immense promise in winning her sole outing at Salisbury earlier this month.

The suspicion lingers that Carson himself does not know whether to put down his saddle for good. Having hinted strongly this season would be his last, he has spent the summer angrily rebutting the inevitable inquiries. There are also the requirements of Sheikh Hamdan to consider. With his huge investment in bloodstock, it is almost certain the sheikh would require Carson's commitment for the whole season.

In July, Carson was fortunate to escape serious injury when his mount, Mubhij, broke a leg and fell heavily in a race at Newmarket. His judgment has also been called into question: in a race at Lingfield in May, he was suspended after prematurely easing his mount, Kamari, who was caught on the winning post. But Carson, who rode his first winner at Catterick 33 years ago, suffered a fractured skull when falling from Silken Knot, who suffered fractures to both forelegs, in a race at York in August 1981. He did not ride again until the following March. This latest injury is nothing like so serious, but Carson is likely to keep people guessing about his career intentions for some time to come.

The ugly incident marred an afternoon otherwise dominated by the victory of King Sound in the Haynes, Hanson & Clark Conditions Stakes over a mile. This race has a rich history in identifying horses of classic potential and King Sound appealed strongly in that capacity when lowering the juvenile course record.

A son of Caerleon, King Sound will be more seriously tested in the Racing Post Trophy. His trainer, John Gosden, underlined his liking for the horse when he said: "If I have a good middle-distance horse for next season, this is the one."

Gordi can recoup Doncaster losses

GORDI can prove an able substitute for Vintage Crop in today's Jefferson Smurfit Memorial Irish St Leger at the Curragh and banish the memory of his poor effort in last Saturday's British equivalent (Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes).

Michael Kinane's mount beat only one home at Doncaster and his trainer, Dermot Weld, said yesterday: "He came back with cuts and bruises on his front legs."

Weld also said that he will discuss Vintage Crop's future with his owner, Michael Smurfit, today. "Vintage Crop is most likely to be retired, but a final decision won't be taken until I discuss it with the owner."

In Gordi's favour today will be the good to firm ground. The Yorkshire Oaks winner, Key Change, was third on fast ground in the Irish Oaks but her trainer, John Oxx, said: "I think she is better with cut in the ground."

There are three British-trained horses with last year's winning trainer, Paul Cole, relying on Posidonas. The Princess of Wales's Stakes winner is held on Royal Ascot running by another of the home defence, Oscar Schindler. Michael Stoute runs Sacrement and Blushing Flame.

There are four British hopes in the group one Aga Khan Studs National Stakes with Sahm looking the best of them. However, this may go to Beautiful Fire.

BIG-RACE FIELDS AT THE CURRAGH

3.50 JEFFERSON SMURFIT MEMORIAL IRISH ST LEGER (Group I: £85,800: 1m 6f) (9 runners)

C4

1 (2) 011-641 BLUSHING FLAME 83 (F,G) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute (GB) 5-9-8 J Reid
2 (3) 622453 FILL THE BILL 11 (G,S) (Mount Juliet Ltd) A O'Brien 4-9-8 J Heffernan
3 (5) 331222 I'M SUPPOSIN 11 (F,G,S) (A Brennan) K Prendergast 4-9-8 W Supple
4 (7) 43-2114 OSCAR SCHINDLER 56 (F,G,S) (O Lehane) K Prendergast 4-9-8 S Craine
5 (8) 5-33122 POSIDONAS 35 (G,S) (A Christodoulou) P Cole (GB) 4-9-8 T Quinn
6 (9) 4-0311 SACRAMENT 14 (F,G) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute (GB) 5-9-8 W R Swinburn
7 (6) 4P-5065 VIATICUM 110 (B,G,S) (S Kiernan) N Meade 4-9-5 Joanna Morgan
8 (4) 04110 GORDI 7 (F,G) (A Paulson) D Weld 3-8-12 M J Kinane
9 (1) 1-11231 KEY CHANGE 31 (G,S) (Lady Clague) J Oxx 3-8-9 J Murtagh

BETTING: 5-2 Key Change, 3-1 Oscar Schindler, 4-1 Sacrament, 6-1 Gordi, Posidonas, 10-1 others.

4.30 THE AGA KHAN STUDS NATIONAL STAKES (Group I 2-Y-O colts and fillies: £112,600: 7f) (11 runners)

C4

1 (4) 13 BEAUTIFUL FIRE 21 (G) (Moyglare Stud Farm) D Weld 9-0 M J Kinane
2 (7) 1321 DAYLIGHT IN DUBAI 83 (G) (P Savill) P Chapple-Hyam (GB) 9-0 K Darley
3 (2) 221 DESERT KING 24 (G) (M Tabor) A O'Brien 9-0 W R Swinburn
4 (5) 1 FANTASTIC FELLOW 17 (G) (Thoroughbred Corp) C Brittain (GB) 9-0 M Roberts
5 (8) 1 JOHAN CRUYFF 63 (F) (Mrs J Magnier) A O'Brien 9-0 J Murtagh
6 (3) 211 MANTOVANI 41 (G) (Mrs J Bolger) J Bolger 9-0 K Manning
7 (1) 321 REFERENDUM 27 (G) (Highclere Racing Ltd) G Lewis (GB) 9-0 J Reid
8 (6) 11D SAHM 52 (G) (H Al Maktoum) J Dunlop (GB) 9-0 T Quinn
9 (11) 5 STONEHAVEN 13 (R Sangster) T Stack 9-0 P Smullen
10 (10) 3113 VERGLAS 41 (F,G) (Mrs A O'Reilly) K Prendergast 9-0 W Supple
11 (9) 111643 AZRA 13 (B,F,G,S) (D Dobson) J Bolger 8-11 S Craine

BETTING: 5-2 Mantovani, 11-4 Verglas, 9-2 Daylight In Dubai, 6-1 Beautiful Fire, 7-1 Sahm, 8-1 others.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ayr

Going: good to firm, firm in places

2.00 (1m) 1, Equerry (J Weaver, 13-8 fav); 2, High Premium (7-2); 3, Brocture Gold (8-1). 12 ran. NR: Langtonian, Lomond Lassie. 3l, nk. M Johnston. Tote: £2.50; £1.40, £1.60, £3.40. DF: £4.10. Trio: £9.80. CSF: £7.47.

2.35 (1m 2f) 1, Rebel County (D Biggs, 15-2); 2, Dana (6-1); 3, Fairywings (5-1). Ground Game 6-4 fav. 8 ran. Hd, 2l. A Bailey. Tote: £9.60; £2.10, £1.60, £1.80. DF: £50.30. CSF: £45.15. Tricast: £207.69.

3.05 (1m) 1, Foxes Tail (F Lynch, 14-1); 2, Southerly Wind (9-2); 3, Sandbaggedagain (5-4 fav). 10 ran. 1l, sh hd. Miss S Hall. Tote: £18.20; £4.30, £1.90, £1.30. DF: £26.10. Trio: £32.20. CSF: £73.81. Tricast: £127.14.

3.35 (6f) 1, Queen Sceptre (K Fallon, 8-1); 2, Head Over Heels (9-2); 3, Miss Stamper (8-13 fav). 6 ran. 2l, hd. B Hills. Tote: £11.40; £3.20, £2.30. DF: £27.70. CSF: £39.37.

4.10 (1m) 1, Pride Of Pendle (Alex Greaves, 6-1); 2, Hawksley Hill (7-1); 3, Give Me A Ring (10-1); 4, Nima (9-2 fav). 18 ran. ¾l, nk. D Nicholls. Tote: £6.20; £1.70, £2.90, £2.90, £2.10. DF: £20.20. Trio: £116.30. CSF: £45.15. Tricast: £388.26.

4.40 (7f) 1, What Happened Was (D Sweeney, 25-1); 2, Halowing (2-1); 3, Cabenus (11-8 fav). 6 ran. ¾l, 1l. M Meade. Tote: £14.00; £2.50, £2.10. DF: £29.20. CSF: £69.67.

5.10 (2m 1f 105yd) 1, Good Hand (J Fortune, 7-1); 2, Shirley Sue (7-1); 3, Great Oration (9-2). Rushen Raider 3-1 fav. 11 ran. NR: Dawadar. 3l, 3l. S Kettlewell. Tote: £7.90; £2.40, £1.90, £2.00. DF: £28.80. Trio: £50.80. CSF: £53.93. Tricast: £230.10. After a stewards inquiry, Uncle Doug, who finished second, was disqualified and placed last.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £15,586.75 carried forward to Ayr today).

Placepot: £100.80. Quadpot: £39.00.

Newbury

Going: good to firm

2.10 (7f 64yd) 1, Bali Paradise (T Quinn, 6-1); 2, Jeffrey Anotherred (11-2 fav); 3, Salty Jack (6-1). 12 ran. NR: Bapsford. 1¼l, 1½l. P Cole. Tote: £7.10; £2.50, £2.30, £1.70. DF: £17.20. Trio: £31.10. CSF: £35.78. Tricast: £191.73.

2.40 (5f 34yd) 1, Struggler (L Dettori, 11-2); 2, Hever Golf Rose (4-6 fav); 3, Amazing Bay (9-1). 9 ran. 1l, ½l. D Loder. Tote: £5.80; £1.60, £1.10, £1.40. DF: £3.50. Trio: £4.50. CSF: £9.26.

3.10 (7f) 1, Etoile (J Reid, 7-1); 2, My Valentina (8-1); 3, Calypso Lady (15-2). Siyadah 100-30 fav. 9 ran. NR: Meshhed. 2½l, ½l. P Chapple-Hyam. Tote: £8.00; £2.20, £2.00, £2.00. DF: £57.30. Trio: £32.20. CSF: £58.46.

3.40 (1m) 1, King Sound (W Ryan, 13-8 fav); 2, Solo Mio (33-1); 3, Haltarra (5-2). 9 ran. ¾l, sh hd. J Gosden. Tote: £2.80; £1.30, £3.00, £1.40. DF: £37.10. Trio: £28.80. CSF: £41.49.

4.15 (1m 4f 5yd) 1, Double Echo (Miss E Johnson Houghton, 20-1); 2, Rising Spray (11-2 fav); 3, Stalled (14-1); 4, Children's Choice (11-1). 22 ran. Hd, nk. J Bethell. Tote: £22.60; £4.10, £1.80, £2.50, £2.50. DF: £124.00. Trio: £921.00. CSF: £124.90. Tricast: £1,514.59.

4.45 (7f 64yd) 1, Duello (J Quinn, 15-2); 2, Press On Nicky (20-1); 3, Young Duke (9-4 fav). 12 ran. 1½l, ¾l. M Blanshard. Tote: £9.10; £2.60, £10.30, £1.50. DF: £205.40. Trio: £451.60. CSF: £131.27. Tricast: £405.40.

5.15 (1m) 1, Threadneedle (L Dettori, 7-1); 2, Scarpetta (5-1); 3, Zilclare (7-1). Medlee 3-1 fav. 12 ran. ¾l, 1¼l. Lord Huntingdon. Tote: £6.80; £1.90, £1.90, £2.40. DF: £32.40. Trio: £66.00. CSF: £41.26.

Placepot: £23.20. Quadpot: £19.10.

Huntingdon

Going: good to firm, firm in places

2.20 (3m 2f hdle) 1, Arrange A Game (S Taylor, 33-1); 2, Mr Genealogy (9-2); 3, Record Lover (7-2 fav). 9 ran. NR: Nick The Dreamer. 1¼l, 3½l. Miss J Bower. Tote: £89.80; £16.50, £2.30, £1.90. DF: £109.10. Trio: £145.30. CSF: £165.27. Tricast: £612.69. No bid.

2.55 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Strong Promise (K Gaule, 2-5 fav); 2, Holy Wanderer (100-30); 3, Shalik (25-1). 5 ran. 6l, 17l. G Hubbard. Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £1.70. DF: £1.70. CSF: £2.26.

3.25 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Mr Percy (P Hide, 7-2); 2, Courbaril (9-4 fav); 3, Nashaat (10-1). 16 ran. NR: Scalp 'em, Wanstead. 8l, 14l. J Gifford. Tote: £5.20; £2.50, £2.40, £5.30. DF: £17.00. Trio: £142.70 (part won; pool of £160.84 carried forward to 4.15 at Ayr today). CSF: £13.05.

3.55 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Ramstar (A P McCoy, 6-1); 2, Super Sharp (Evens fav). 3 ran. NR: Lowawatha. Dist. P Hobbs. Tote: £5.40. DF: £2.50. CSF: £10.65. Only two finished.

4.25 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Prizefighter (O Pears, 13-8 fav); 2, Yubralee (4-1); 3, Zine Lane (10-3). 6 ran. NR: Amaze, Lancer. 7l, 1¼l. J Eyre. Tote: £2.40; £2.10, £2.30. DF: £5.90. CSF: £8.27. Tricast: £16.84.

4.55 (3m ch) 1, Drumcullen (Mr R Wakley, 5-2); 2, Fairy Park (9-1); 3, The Yank (11-10 fav). 4 ran. 3l, dist. K Bailey. Tote: £4.00. DF: £6.00. CSF: £16.15.

5.25 (2m 110yd flat race) 1, Prototype (A Thornton, 10-1); 2, Ardenbar (10-3); 3, Ultimate Smoothie (7-4 fav). 12 ran. 5l, 4l. G Johnson Houghton. Tote: £26.20; £6.00, £1.80, £1.50. DF: £40.60. Trio: £96.30. CSF: £52.74.

Placepot: £185.50. Quadpot: £35.10.

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

2.20 Champagne Warrior. 2.50 Toronto. 3.20 Madison Welcome. 3.50 Tessajoe. 4.25 Broughtons Formula. 5.00 Don Bosio. 5.30 Special-K.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 HAPPY BIRTHDAY JFS 55 TODAY SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,406: 1m 5f 175yd) (10 runners)

1 0255 ARC OF THE DIVER 15 (B) J Berry 8-10 G Carter 7
2 AYDIGO J Pearce 8-10 G Bardwell 2
3 -040 BROGANS BRUSH 89 J Haldane 8-10 J Fanning 8
4 00-0 STORM WIND 115 K Burke 8-10 M Fenton 1
5 0450 THE BUTTERWICK KID 87 (G) R Fahey 8-10 A Culhane 9
6 3425 CHAMPAGNE WARRIOR 71 (B) M Camacho 8-5 L Charnock 3
7 CHANCANCOOK J Eyre 8-5 S Buckley (7) 6
8 6304 HAVANA HEIGHTS 28 J Eyre 8-5 J Quinn 4
9 0560 PHILGEM 2 C Fairhurst 8-5 N Kennedy 5
10 4600 SHIP'S DANCER 19 (V) E Incisa 8-5 Kim Tinkler 10

5-2 Arc Of The Diver, 7-2 Champagne Warrior, 9-2 Havana Heights, 8-1 Philgem, Chancancook, 10-1 Aydigo, Ship's Dancer, 12-1 others.

2.50 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,013: 5f 212yd) (9)

1 56 AMYAS 10 B Hills 9-0 J D Smith (5) 8
2 33 BALLIEBOROUGH BOY 117 (BF) T Barron 9-0 A Culhane 1
3 06 BARRESBO 70 C Fairhurst 9-0 L Charnock 7
4 00 CONTENTMENT 10 J Hills 9-0 M Fenton 6
5 5 EROSION 29 M Johnston 9-0 G Bardwell 4
6 00 KING UNO 12 Mrs J Ramsden 9-0 J Quinn 3
7 05 SHADED 12 J Watts 9-0 N Connorton 2
8 625 TORONTO 40 J Berry 9-0 G Carter 5
9 COME DANCING M Johnston 8-9 J Fanning 9

3-1 Toronto, 4-1 Amyas, 9-2 Ballieborough Boy, 5-1 Come Dancing, 6-1 Barresbo, 7-1 Contentment, 10-1 Erosion, 12-1 others.

3.20 RED ONION NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £3,444: 7f) (9)

1 5456 ITALIAN SYMPHONY 23 M Johnston 9-7 J Quinn 9
2 640 LORD DISCORD 40 T Easterby 8-12 N Connorton 4
3 0405 MADISON WELCOME 36 Mrs J Ramsden 8-12 J Fanning 3
4 5443 SUPER SAINT 29 T Barron 8-12 A Culhane 7
5 5302 TOM MI DAH 27 M Hammond 8-12 N Kennedy 6
6 003 JUICY TING 26 P Haslam 8-11 G Carter 2
7 3463 GIPSY PRINCESS 14 M W Easterby 8-9 L Charnock 5
8 5606 EPIC STAND 18 Mrs J Ramsden 8-7 T Finn (7) 8
9 0450 BALLYDINERO 26 J Wilson 8-0 G Bardwell 1

3-1 Super Saint, 7-2 Madison Welcome, 4-1 Tom Mi Dah, 6-1 Gipsy Princess, 7-1 Italian Symphony, 8-1 Epic Stand, Lord Discord, 10-1 others

3.50 CONSTANT SECURITY SERVICES HANDICAP (£4,013: 1m 3f 214yd) (9)

1 4253 ARTIC COURIER 14 (D,F) D Cosgrove 5-10-0 L Newton (5) 3
2 40-0 PERSIAN ELITE 28 (D,F,G) C Egerton 5-9-13 G Carter 5
3 6100 NEREUS 14 (F) B Hills 3-9-4 J D Smith (5) 1
4 4302 TESSAJOE 14 (CD,F,G) M Camacho 4-9-2 L Charnock 7
5 0-00 COLORFUL AMBITION 14 (F,G) Mrs A Swinbank 6-8-12 N Connorton 6
6 0-34 ONCE MORE FOR LUCK 14 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-8-11 A Culhane 2
7 2362 CLASSIC PARISIAN 21 R Harris 3-8-11 R Price 9
8 3205 MASTER HYDE 14 (D,F,G) W Storey 7-8-1 J Fanning 8
9 050- MAD MILITANT 355 (D,F,G) A Streeter 7-8-0 J Quinn 4

11-4 Tessajoe, 4-1 Once More For Luck, 9-2 Artic Courier, 5-1 Classic Parisian, 7-1 Master Hyde, Nereus, 10-1 Colorful Ambition, 12-1 others

4.25 SKYRAM HANDICAP (£3,078: 1m 7f 177yd) (15)

1 2521 HULLBANK 67 (D,F) W Haigh 6-9-12 G Carter 15
2 5212 SPINNING MOUSE 37 (C,BF,F) D Morley 3-9-0 M Fenton 1
3 4221 MARSAYAS 35 (CD,F) M Camacho 3-8-11 L Charnock 6
4 044P AREN'T WE LUCKY 15 J J O'Neill 3-8-9 S Olley (7) 12
5 0055 JUNDI 25 (B,F) J Bethell 5-8-9 J D Smith (5) 5
6 5626 CLASH OF SWORDS 24 (B) P Calver 3-8-8 J Fanning 7
7 1410 MONACO GOLD 23 (F) Mrs M Reveley 4-8-7 A Culhane 3
8 0506 HIGHFIELD FIZZ 18 (G) C Fairhurst 4-8-7 N Connorton 9
9 0644 LONGCROFT 28J (F) S Kettlewell 4-8-6 N Kennedy 4
10 0001 BROUGHTONS FORMULA 5 (B,C,D,F,G) W Musson 6-8-5 (5ex) J Quinn 8
11 606 PENNY PEPPERMINT 24 R Barr 4-8-0 — 14
12 0060 ALZOTIC 72 (V) J Norton 3-7-10 Jo Hunnam (7) 13
13 6/00 SUPERHOO 70J R Craggs 5-7-10 G Bardwell 11
14 5364 ONEFOURSEVEN 24 J Eyre 3-7-10 C Adamson (5) 2
15 50-0 DOCTOR'S REMEDY 171 (B,C,F) Mrs J Jordan 10-7-10 Jenny Benson (7) 10

9-2 Hullbank, 5-1 Broughtons Formula, 6-1 Marsayas, 7-1 Spinning Mouse, 8-1 Longcroft, 10-1 Monaco Gold, Jundi, 12-1 others

5.00 GO RACING IN YORKSHIRE MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £4,143: 7f) (13)

1 6000 BALLYKISSANGEL 38 N Bycroft 9-0 C Adamson (5) 10
2 0533 DON BOSIO 11 (V,BF) M Stoute 9-0 N Connorton 6
3 0800 JOHN-T 40 J Berry 9-0 G Carter 8
4 4 JUNGLE FRESH 74 J Bethell 9-0 G Bardwell 1
5 5000 KASS ALHAWA 14 D Chapman 9-0 A Culhane 3
6 MAN ON A MISSION A Streeter 9-0 L Newton (5) 2
7 32 MIGHTY KEEN 34 M Johnston 9-0 J Fanning 5
8 5-2 MINOLETTI 14 E Dunlop 9-0 M Fenton 7
9 230 PROUD LOOK 100 B Hills 9-0 L Charnock 12
10 -444 STELLAR LINE 16 B Hills 9-0 J D Smith (5) 13
11 0 BORN ON THE WILD 14 S Kettlewell 8-9 N Kennedy 4
12 CLASSIC RIBBON R Harris 8-9 R Price 11
13 50 DANLORA 29 W Jarvis 8-9 J Quinn 9

7-4 Don Bosio, 6-1 Danlora, 7-1 Mighty Keen, Stellar Line, 8-1 John-T, Minoletti, 12-1 Kass Alhawa, 16-1 others.

5.30 BROUGH PARK FILLIES HANDICAP (£3,288: 7f) (18)

1 0103 FORMIDABLE LIZ 5 (C,F) M Hammond 6-10-0 O Pears (3) 16
2 6200 SPECIAL-K 3 (V,D,F,G) E Weymes 4-9-8 C Lowther (7) 2
3 0304 REGAL FANFARE 36 (B,F,G) Mrs L Stubbs 4-9-7 Jo Hunnam (7) 10
4 0053 CHARMING BRIDE 19 (D,G) S Williams 3-9-6 G Carter 7
5 2600 CRUZ SANTA 18 T Barron 3-9-5 A Culhane 18
6 4350 BOLD ENOUGH 86 (D,G) B Hills 3-9-4 J D Smith (5) 8
7 2000 PRUDENT PET 12 (D,F,G) C Fairhurst 4-9-3 L Charnock 13
8 2422 KOMLUCKY 29 (V,G) A Mulholland 4-9-2 L Newton (5) 3
9 3-46 FUNKY 40 D Nicholls 3-9-1 Alex Greaves 6
10 6000 LADY SILK 5 (G,S) Miss J Craze 5-9-0 N Connorton 4
11 5360 LA FINALE 5 (B) D Nicholls 3-8-13 Jenny Benson (7) 5
12 0101 SIS GARDEN 14 (B,D,G) J Cullinan 3-8-13 Aimee Cook (5) 12
13 4600 BELBAY STAR 36 J Eyre 3-8-13 J Quinn 9
14 4406 MADAM ZANDO 26 J Balding 3-8-11 J Edmunds (7) 14
15 0000 MY MILLIE 51 D Barker 3-8-11 J Fanning 17
16 000- EMEI SHAN 359 W G M Turner 3-8-10 D McGaffin (7) 1
17 0640 MOST WANTED 16 J J O'Neill 3-8-10 R Price 11
18 040 LADY SEREN 54 S Kettlewell 4-8-10 N Kennedy 15

7-1 Regal Fanfare, 8-1 Formidable Liz, 10-1 Funky, 12-1 Sis Garden, Charming Bride, Komlucky, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: B Hills, 19 winners from 44 runners, 43.2%; W Jarvis, 3 from 12, 25.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 25 from 105, 23.8%; D Morley, 3 from 13, 23.1%; W G M Turner, 3 from 16, 18.8%; T Easterby, 4 from 22, 18.2%.

JOCKEYS: L Newton, 3 winners from 13 rides, 23.1%; O Pears, 9 from 60, 15.0%; N Connorton, 9 from 67, 13.4%; G Carter, 6 from 46, 13.0%; M Fenton, 4 from 35, 11.4%. Only qualifiers.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ayr: 3.05 Thwaab, Stuffed. 4.45 Ela Man Howa. Carlisle: 1.40 Million Dancer. 4.30 More Joy. Catterick Bridge: 2.20 Champagne Warrior. 5.30 Special-K. Market Rasen: 2.45 Eccentric Dancer, Euro Express. Newbury: 2.10 Tna Kemata. 2.40 Brandon Magic. 4.10 Artful Dane, Blaze Of Song. Wolverhampton: 7.00 Mystic Quest. 8.30 Laughing Buccaneer. 9.00 Hopperetta.

CARLISLE

THUNDERER

1.40 Million Dancer. 2.15 Caxton. 2.50 Sharani. 3.25 Kushbaloo. 3.55 Buglet. 4.30 Cuchullains Gold. 5.05 Duraid.

GOING: FIRM SIS

1.40 ULLSWATER NOVICES HURDLE (£1,660: 2m 4f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 1221 MILLION DANCER 25 (B,F) M Pipe 4-11-3 D Bridgwater
2 1-21 WAR WHOOP 23 (F) C Thornton 4-11-3 M Foster
3 3-41 SUJUD 15 (F) M Hammond 4-10-12 R Garritty
4 00/0 THALEROS 15 G Moore 6-10-12 J Callaghan
5 -00P OUSEFLEET BOY 15 Miss M Milligan 4-10-10 A Dobbin
6 PANGERAN 225F Mrs A Swinbank 4-10-10 J Supple
7 440- POLLY CINDERS 278 Mrs J Goodfellow 5-10-7 B Fenton
8 05 SCALLYMILL 42 K Hogg 5-10-7 Mr K Whelan

7-4 Million Dancer, 9-4 War Whoop, 7-2 Sujud, 7-1 Thaleros, 12-1 Pangeran, 14-1 Polly Cinders, 16-1 others.

2.15 THIRLMERE NOVICES CHASE (£2,099: 2m) (4)

1 -PR0 BOETHIUS 23 M Barnes 7-10-12 P Waggott
2 -642 CAXTON 22 (BF,F,S) J White 9-10-12 N Williamson
3 4-30 RICHMOND 15 (F,B) Miss Z Green 8-10-12 B Storey
4 P40- TO BE THE BEST 129 D Lamb 6-10-12 J Burke

15-8 Richmond, 2-1 Caxton, 7-2 To Be The Best, 4-1 Boethius.

2.50 BROTHERSWATER HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,188: 2m 4f 110yd) (2)

1 3113 GONE BY 8 (V,D,BF,F,G) J Jenkins 8-11-11 G Bradley
2 1111 SHAHRANI 31 (F,G) M Pipe 4-11-9 D Bridgwater

2-7 Shahrani, 3-1 Gone By

3.25 RED RUM HANDICAP CHASE (£2,801: 3m) (5)

1 13-4 KUSHBALOO 28 (CD,F,G) C Parker 11-11-10 B Storey
2 4203 THE BLUE BOY 7 (B,D,F,G,S) P Bowen 8-10-8 N Williamson
3 P4-P BANNTOWN BILL 17 (V,D,F,G,S) M Pipe 7-10-4 D Bridgwater
4 5P-4 JENDEE 7 (S) B Ellison 8-10-0 G Cahill (3)
5 6-35 UPWELL 28 (F) R Johnson 12-10-0 K Johnson

6-4 Kushbaloo, 9-4 The Blue Boy, 5-1 Banntown Bill, 6-1 Jendee, 10-1 Upwell

3.55 RYDAL WATER HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,744: 2m 1f) (9)

1 440- SHARP SENSATION 29F (D,F) D Barker 6-12-0 P Niven
2 43-5 WELL APPOINTED 106 (CD,F) B Mactaggart 7-11-10 B Storey
3 28-3 ANORAK 23 (D,F) G Moore 6-11-7 J Callaghan
4 -012 BUGLET 10 (D,F) M Pipe 6-11-7 D Bridgwater
5 5-23 TAKE TWO 21 (D,F,G,S) Miss M Milligan 8-11-6 G Cahill (3)
6 04-4 SOUSON 21 (B,C,F,G) J Wade 8-11-0 K Jones
7 40-3 BOLANEY GIRL 7 (F) F Murtagh 7-10-8 A Dobbin
8 2443 SILVER SLEEVE 22 (B,F) M Hammond 4-10-6 R Garritty
9 000- STAGS FELL 117 (D,F,G) T Cuthbert 11-10-0 Carol Cuthbert

7-2 Buglet, 4-1 Anorak, 9-2 Sharp Sensation, 5-1 Well Appointed, 7-1 Bolaney Girl, 8-1 Silver Sleeve, 10-1 others

4.30 BASSENTHWAITE LAKE NOVICES CHASE (£2,060: 3m) (5)

1 521U CUCHULLAINS GOLD 15 (BF,F,G) J White 8-11-5 N Williamson
2 6622 BUYERS DREAM 15 (V) B Ellison 6-10-12 G Cahill (3)
3 004- GERMAN LEGEND 116 (F) D Lamb 6-10-12 J Burke
4 44-P MORE JOY 23 (B) Mrs L Marshall 8-10-12 D Bentley
5 20-P SAND KING 30 (V,F) Ms L Plater 10-10-12 A Dobbin

7-4 Cuchullains Gold, 3-1 Buyers Dream, 7-2 German Legend, 5-1 More Joy, 8-1 Sand King

5.05 DERWENT INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,224: 2m 1f) (13)

1 1- DURAID 161 (F) Denys Smith 4-11-9 R Guest
2 21 RED TEL 31 (F) M Pipe 4-11-9 D Bridgwater
3 HENPECKED M Hammond 5-11-4 R Garritty
4 FOUR FROM HOME J J O'Neill 4-11-2 A Roche
5 6- SIOUX WARRIOR 128 C Thornton 4-11-2 N Horrocks (7)
6 THE KNITTER J Birkett 4-11-2 M Moloney
7 GRACE AND FAVOUR J Hope 5-10-13 J Burke
8 GREEN AN CASTLE Miss Z Green 6-10-13 Mr T Morrison
9 IN THE FUTURE B Ellison 5-10-13 G Cahill (3)
10 VALE OF OAK J Hope 5-10-13 B Harding
11 WERE'S ME MONEY F Murtagh 6-10-13 Miss Sue Nichol
12 BEST FRIEND M W Easterby 4-10-11 Mr N Wilson
13 JOE'S BIT OF GOLD T Cuthbert 4-10-11 P Niven

2-1 Duraid, 3-1 Red Tel, 6-1 Henpecked, 7-1 Sioux Warrior, 8-1 Best Friend, 10-1 Four From Home, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs A Swinbank, 4 winners from 23 runners, 17.4%; C Parker, 13 from 88, 14.8%; A MacTaggart, 4 from 29, 13.8%; M Hammond, 13 from 96, 13.5%; J Birkett, 3 from 23, 13.0%; G M Moore, 7 from 56, 12.5%.

JOCKEYS: P Niven, 28 winners from 97 rides, 28.9%; A Dobbin, 18 from 98, 18.4%; J Callaghan, 7 from 44, 15.9%; J Burke, 5 from 34, 14.7%; B Storey, 20 from 146, 13.7%; R Guest, 5 from 41, 12.2%; D Bentley, 5 from 42, 11.9%

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER

2.10 Sea God. 2.45 Uncle George. 3.15 Houghton. 3.45 Ordog Mor. 4.20 Cats Run. 4.50 Bellroi.

GOING. GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.10 SCANIA 4-SERIES HORSEPOWER HURDLE NOVICES HANDICAP (£2,793. 2m 1f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 11 INDRAPURA 47 (D,F) M Pipe 4-11-12 C Maude
2 -252 SEA GOD 11F (BF) M Chapman 5-11-9 W Worthington
3 3126 IRIE MON 26 (CD,BF,F) M Easterby 4-10-13 R Dunwoody
4 B-33 COURT OF FLANDERS 17F K Morgan 6-10-10 A S Smith
5 430- MERRYHILL GOLD 200 J Curtis 5-10-6 L Wyer
6 -P13 RAGAMUFFIN ROMEO 42 (F) H Sumner 7-10-5 N Mann
7 036 HATTA RIVER 25 (B) P Dacre 6-10-1 A Maguire
8 7-P0 KAJOSTAR 52 S Campion 6-10-0 D Borrows (7)

2-1 Indrapura, 4-1 Count Of Flanders, 9-2 Sea God, 5-1 Irie Mon, 8-1 Merryhill Gold, 10-1 Ragamuffin Romeo, 12-1 Hatta River, 25-1 others.

2.45 BBC RADIO LINCOLNSHIRE JUVENILE NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (£2,136: 2m 1f 110yd) (18)

1 EURO EXPRESS 14F (B) T Easterby 10-10 L Wyer
2 FERGAL 15F Miss J Craze 10-10 O Pears
3 GHOSTLY APPARITION 203F J Upson 10-10 R Supple
4 NORDIC HERO 12F A Jarvis 10-10 R Dunwoody
5 036 RECALL TO MIND 26 (B) M Scudamore 10-10 D Parker (3)
6 SEEKING DESTINY 4F M Chapman 10-10 W Worthington
7 2 TABLETS OF STONE 17 J Bosley 10-10 M Bosley
8 5 UNCLE GEORGE 4F (V) M Tompkins 10-10 A Maguire
9 EARLY WARNING 14F C Egerton 10-5 J Osborne
10 ECCENTRIC DANCER 35F (B) M Easterby 10-5 A S Smith
11 FLORRIE'M 29F J L Harris 10-5 D Gallagher
12 HANNAHS BAY 80F M Meagher 10-5 F Leahy (3)
13 23 HOME COOKIN' 22F (BF) M Pipe 10-5 C Maude
14 IN A TIZZY 14F P Haslam 10-5 A P McCoy
15 KAI'S LADY 109F S Campion 10-5 D Borrows (7)
16 ON THE HOME RUN 49F J Jenkins 10-5 N T Egan (7)
17 6 REMEMBER STAR 24 A Smith 10-5 F Jousset
18 SIZZLING SERENADE 28F J A Harris 10-5 P McLoughlin

9-2 Uncle George, 6-1 Euro Express, 7-1 Nordic Hero, 8-1 On The Home Run, In A Tizzy, Early Warning, 10-1 Ghostly Apparition, 12-1 others

3.15 SCANIA 1996 TRUCK OF THE YEAR CHASE HANDICAP (£4,497. 2m 4f) (7)

1 04-2 HOUGHTON 8 (D,F,G,S) W Jenks 10-11-12 Mr R Burton (7)
2 2414 ANDRELOT 17 (B,CD,F,G) P Bowen 9-11-12 A P McCoy
3 3F5- DARK OAK 136 (CD,F,G,S) J Curtis 10-11-9 L Wyer
4 22-2 MERLINS DREAM 24 (F,G) O Sherwood 7-11-2 J Osborne
5 1112 MAGGOTS GREEN 7 (D,F,G,S) J Bradley 9-10-12 R Johnson
6 433F WISE ADVICE 7 (D,F) M Hammond 6-10-8 A Maguire
7 64-5 CLARES OWN 15 (C,F,G,S) J Wade 12-10-9 A Thornton

9-4 Merlins Dream, 3-1 Houghton, 7-2 Andrelot, 6-1 Wise Advice, 8-1 Maggots Green, 12-1 Dark Oak, 14-1 Clares Own

3.45 AUDREY BUTTERY REUNION HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,795: 3m) (6)

1 1-4F TALLYWAGGER 25 (D,F,G) G Moore 9-12-0 N Bentley
2 2111 ORDOG MOR 26 (D,F,G) M Meagher 7-11-0 A P McCoy
3 -F1F FRONTIER FLIGHT 21 (F,G) Miss L Siddall 6-10-7 E Husband (3)
4 4-13 RED JAM JAR 23 (C,F,G) S Bell 11-10-5 N Smith
5 64-P MOOBAKKR 91 (CD,F,G,S) K Morgan 5-10-4 A S Smith
6 2113 CHINA MAIL 17 (D,BF,F) K Bailey 4-10-3 T J Murphy

7-4 Ordog Mor, 7-2 Tallywagger, 4-1 Frontier Flight, 6-1 China Mail, 7-1 Red Jam Jar, 8-1 Moobakkr.

4.20 SCANLINK FOR SCANIA NOVICES CHASE (£3,873: 3m 1f) (4)

1 3211 CATS RUN 9 (C,F,G) J Upson 8-11-12 R Supple
2 204- DEISE MARSHALL 171 J Wade 8-11-0 A S Smith
3 P-U DURHAM HORNET 15 (F,G,S) Mrs S Horner-Harker 9-11-0 N Smith
4 VERNOMETUM 209P J L Harris 10-11-0 D Gallagher

8-13 Cats Run, 2-1 Deise Marshall, 10-1 Vernometum, 14-1 Durham Hornet.

4.50 SCANIA 4-SERIES KING OF THE ROAD HURDLE HANDICAP (£3,103: 2m 3f 110yd) (9)

1 -012 BURES 23 (BF,F,G) Mrs J Brown 5-12-0 B Grattan (7)
2 /13- SCUD MISSILE 448 (CD,F,G) G Johnson Houghton 5-11-4 A Thornton
3 0612 WAMDHA 21 (C,F,G,S) K Morgan 6-11-4 A S Smith
4 1112 PETER MONAMY 14 (B,BF,F,G) M Pipe 4-11-3 D Walsh (3)
5 0P-1 BELLROI 7 (F,G) M Tompkins 5-11-2 A Maguire
6 1-4P LAYHAM LOW 7 (F) O Sherwood 5-11-2 J Osborne
7 0-1P RUDI'S PRIDE 15 (C,F,G) S Bell 5-10-13 N Smith
8 364P STAY WITH ME 10 (C,F) C Egerton 6-10-8 Mr R Thornton (7)
9 1112 WOLLBOLL 10 (S) H Collingridge 6-10-0 V Smith

11-4 Bellroi, 4-1 Wamdha, 9-2 Peter Monamy, 6-1 Scud Missile, Layham Low, 8-1 Bures, 10-1 Wollboll, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Bailey, 12 winners from 44 runners, 27.3%; M Pipe, 10 from 49, 20.4%; J Upson, 3 from 17, 17.6%; M Tompkins, 3 from 17, 17.6%; K Morgan, 15 from 90, 16.7%; C Egerton, 3 from 18, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: A P McCoy, 9 winners from 28 rides, 32.1%; R Dunwoody, 11 from 63, 17.5%; L Wyer, 16 from 96, 16.7%; A S Smith, 17 from 107, 15.9%; A Maguire, 11 from 74, 14.9%; P McLoughlin, 4 from 27, 14.8%.

Racing next week

MONDAY: Leicester (first race, 2.15), Musselburgh (2.00)
TUESDAY: Epsom (2.15), Nottingham (2.00).
WEDNESDAY: Chester (2.20), Goodwood (2.30), Perth (2.10)
THURSDAY: Goodwood (2.30), Perth (2.10), Pontefract (2.45).
FRIDAY: Folkestone (1.50), Haydock Park (2.00), Redcar (2.10)
SATURDAY: Ascot (BBC, 2.00), Haydock Park (2.05), Redcar (2.25), Worcester (2.30)
SUNDAY: Ascot (BBC, 2.00), Hamilton Park (2.15), Newton Abbot (2.30)

Flat meetings in bold

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

7.00 Ferny Hill. 7.30 Iota. 8.00 Bold Street. 8.30 In The Money. 9.00 Run Lucy Run. 9.30 Rawi.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 7.00 Ferny Hill.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

7.00 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND MALI MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,634. 1m 100yd) (12 runners)

1 0 AS FRIENDLY 45 M Stoute 9-0 X Bradshaw 4
2 04 CARLYS QUEST 18 J Neville 9-0 S Drowne 11
3 DIGITAL OPTION P Webber 9-0 M Wigham 5
4 DON'T FOOL ME P Mooney 9-0 A Whelan (3) 6
5 4 FERNY HILL 30 M Prescott 9-0 G Duffield 2
6 0 JACK BROWN 28 T Clement 9-0 G Faulkner (5) 3
7 4240 MYSTIC QUEST 11 (V) K McAuliffe 9-0 D R McCabe 8
8 00 OHIO ROYALE 37 P Haslam 9-0 D Sweeney (7) 1
9 SOUTHERN CHIEF W G M Turner 9-0 C Teague (3) 10
10 02 DOUBLE ESPRESSO 17 M Johnston 8-9 M Henry (3) 9
11 0 ROYAL ROULETTE 31 S Woods 8-9 D Biggs 7
12 46 TERRY'S ROSE 44 R Hollinshead 8-9 F Lynch (3) 12

2-1 Ferny Hill, 3-1 Double Espresso, 5-1 As Friendly, 7-1 Mystic Quest, 14-1 Terry's Rose, Royal Roulette, 16-1 others

7.30 MOZAMBIQUE LIMITED STAKES (£2,070: 1m 6f 166yd) (11)

1 0404 BAYRAK 12 (G,S) M Ryan 6-9-6 M Tebbutt 5
2 4500 CROSS TALK 58 (F,S) N Tinkler 4-9-6 Kim Tinkler 11
3 1053 IOTA 5 (CD,F,G,S) J L Harris 7-9-5 G Duffield 6
4 5005 DUTY SERGEANT 27 (F,G,S) P Mitchell 7-9-4 M Henry (3) 7
5 254 SUPERMODEL 44 Mrs N Macauley 4-9-1 C Teague (3) 8
6 5232 PEARL ANNIVERSARY 14 (C,G) Miss S Wilton 3-8-11 S Whitworth 2
7 3401 BATOUTOFTHEBLUE 12 (G) W Haigh 3-8-9 D R McCabe 4
8 2603 HARBET HOUSE 12 (G) C Cyzer 3-8-9 F Lynch (3) 3
9 0620 WHAT JIM WANTS 15 J J O'Neill 3-8-7 S Olley (7) 1
10 3301 ARCADY 12 (F) P Walwyn 3-8-6 T Sprake 10
11 P440 MISS PRAVDA 12 (F) B Llewellyn 3-8-4 J Bramhill (7) 9

11-4 Arcady, 7-2 Batoutoftheblue, 6-1 Iota, 7-1 Harbet House, 8-1 Supermodel, Bayrak, 10-1 Pearl Anniversary, 12-1 others.

8.00 BEACON RADIO DISC JOCKEY DERBY HANDICAP (£2,930: 6f) (13)

1 2305 KLIPSPINGER 12 (G) (D) B Rothwell 3-9-13 F Lynch (3) 5
2 2406 BOLD STREET 21 (G,S) (CD)(B) A Bailey 6-9-13 D Biggs 7
3 2203 IMPOSING TIME 9 (F,G) (B) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-11 D Griffiths (5) 11
4 0302 THEATRE MAGIC 36 (G) S Bowring 3-9-11 Martin Dwyer (5) 10
5 0033 ITSINTHEPOST 14 (G) (CD) V Soane 3-9-10 M Fenton 1
6 0340 LEIGH CROFTER 14 (F,G,S) (C,D) P Condell 7-9-10 N Lovelock (7) 4
7 1010 QUEENS CHECK 22 (G,S) Miss J Craze 3-9-9 D R McCabe 3
8 -450 KUNG FRODE 14 (G) B McMahon 4-9-9 G Duffield 2
9 2242 NAPIER STAR 14 (G) (C,D)(V) Mrs N Macauley 3-9-8 C Teague (3) 6
10 0000 ROWLANDSONS STUD 9 (G) (D) P Burgoyne 3-9-8 J Bosley (7) 12
11 2066 RED ADMIRAL 14 (F,G) (CD) C Murray 6-9-8 D McKeown 13
12 3005 SHONTAINE 36 (F,G) (D) M Johnston 3-9-7 M Henry (3) 9
13 0300 ANITA'S CONTESSA 11 (G) B Palling 4-9-5 T Sprake 8

4-1 Theatre Magic, 5-1 Imposing Time, 11-2 Napier Star, 6-1 Leigh Crofter, 7-1 Bold Street, 8-1 Red Admiral, 10-1 others

8.30 PLYVINE CATERING HANDICAP (£2,070: 1m 4f) (12)

1 3603 IN THE MONEY 24 (F,G) (CD) R Hollinshead 7-10-0 F Lynch (3) 10
2 0112 GLOW FORUM 23 (F,G,S) (D,BF) L Montague Hall 5-9-10 Martin Dwyer (5) 4
3 -050 PLATINUM PLUS 21 (F,G,S) (D) C Dwyer 4-9-9 C Dwyer 12
4 5050 TODD 21 (G) P Mitchell 5-9-8 G Carter 3
5 0-40 LAST ROUNDUP 161 (G) C Thornton 4-9-7 D McKeown 11
6 -510 DE-VEERS CURRIE 18 (S) M Todhunter 4-9-7 T Sprake 7
7 300- BLUE AND ROYAL 154J V Soane 4-9-6 M Fenton 6
8 2214 NEWBRIDGE BOY 43 (G) (CD) M Meagher 3-9-5 D R McCabe 2
9 0064 SOMMERSBY 21 (G) (CD) Mrs N Macauley 5-9-5 C Teague (3) 1
10 2263 SIESTA TIME 26 D Burchell 6-9-2 R Price 8
11 0030 LAUGHING BUCCANEER 14 (V) M H-Ellis 3-8-13 S Drowne 9
12 00-5 ALL ON 67 (G) (D) J Hetherton 5-8-11 S Whitworth 5

3-1 Newbridge Boy, 7-2 Glow Forum, 6-1 In The Money, 7-1 Sommersby, 8-1 Last Roundup, 10-1 Todd, 12-1 others

9.00 DUNSTALL PARK SELLING SERIES FINAL HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £4,191: 7f) (7)

1 5312 TINKERBELL 28 (G) (CD)(V) Miss S Wilton 9-7 S Whitworth 1
2 4341 RUN LUCY RUN 21 (G) (C,D) Miss G Kelleway 9-6 G Duffield 5
3 3350 HOPPERETTA 11 (B) B Palling 9-0 T Sprake 4
4 5152 CONTRAVENE 15 (F) J Berry 8-13 G Carter 2
5 1544 ABSTONE QUEEN 4 (F,G) (D,V) P Evans 8-13 F Lynch (3) 3
6 0353 MUJADIL EXPRESS 21 J Moore 8-12 P P Murphy (5) 7
7 0300 RUN FOR US 2 C Dwyer 7-11 Jo Hunnam (7) 6

9-4 Tinkerbell, 3-1 Run Lucy Run, 4-1 Contravene, 5-1 Abstone Queen, 8-1 Mujadil Express, 10-1 Run For Us, 12-1 Hopperetta

9.30 KEY JOINERY MAIDEN HANDICAP (£2,490: 1m 100yd) (13)

1 6032 TIME OF NIGHT 15 (BF) R Guest 3-9-11 D Griffiths (5) 5
2 0660 CRABBIE'S PRIDE 22 M Meagher 3-9-10 D R McCabe 1
3 0200 ALASKA 86 M Meagher 3-9-10 R Studholme (7) 13
4 0030 WHAT A FUSS 30 B Hanbury 3-9-9 J Stack 6
5 4043 TEA PARTY 14 K Cunningham-Brown 3-9-5 T Sprake 8
6 04-0 MUSTANG 168 C Thornton 3-9-4 D McKeown 2
7 0463 RAWI 17 Miss G Kelleway 3-9-3 G Duffield 9
8 0564 DASHING DANCER 52 B Baugh 5-9-3 W Lord 7
9 6502 ANGUS MCCOATUP 14 B McMahon 3-8-13 L Newton (5) 11
10 4645 THE GREAT FLOOD 14 C Dwyer 3-8-13 Jo Hunnam (7) 10
11 0000 BELLACARDIA 17 G Lewis 3-8-13 A Whelan (3) 4
12 0040 SHARP COMMAND 15 P Eccles 3-8-12 G Carter 12
13 5000 KOWTOW 54 M Usher 3-8-10 R Street 3

3-1 Time Of Night, 7-2 Tea Party, 5-1 Angus McCoatup, 6-1 Rawi, 8-1 What A Fuss, 10-1 The Great Flood, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Guest, 8 winners from 30 runners, 26.7%; P Mitchell, 4 from 15, 26.7%; M Johnston, 39 from 157, 24.8%; C Dwyer, 6 from 25, 24.0%; M Prescott, 17 from 75, 22.7%.

JOCKEYS: G Carter, 28 winners from 169 rides, 16.6%; G Duffield, 18 from 124, 14.5%; T Sprake, 9 from 68, 13.2%; F Lynch, 14 from 107, 13.1%; S Whitworth, 11 from 93, 11.8%; D R McCabe, 5 from 47, 10.6%.

PAMPER YOURSELF WITH A BREAK AT A LUXURIOUS HEALTH FARM

Get into shape

Spend a two-night break at one of two of Britain's leading health resorts, with this exclusive offer for *Times* readers.

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The price for a two-night midweek break at Henlow Grange is £169.95, at Springs Hydro is £134.95 (single supplement £29.95). All rooms have en suite bathrooms and colour television with satellite.

This offer is available from 23 September, 1996 until 31 October, 1996, subject to availability.

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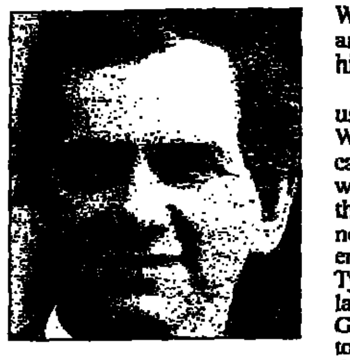
Springs Hydro, Packington, Nr Ashby, Leicestershire, LE65 1TG,
telephone 01530 273 873.
When booking, please quote *The Times*.

FOOTBALL

Wright reaches across eras to Bastin's landmark

ROB HUGHES



Weekend View

HALF a century, and half a ton of goals, separate Ian Wright from Cliff Bastin as the greatest accumulators of goals in Arsenal history. The huge gulf in the different eras they represent is reflected in behaviour, in athletic approach and in the unbridled spirit that Wright brings to the modern Arsenal more than in the frequency with which Wright and Bastin hit the target.

On Monday Wright scored a hat-trick to take his tally of league goals for Arsenal to 100, scored in 168 appearances. He became second in the club's all-time goalscorers list to Bastin, who neatly rounded off his league tally at 150 goals in 350 games. "Yeah, I'm hunting the man down, y'know," Wright said.

One would not ordinarily compare the lives or the temperaments of Bastin and Wright, no more than you could compare their price. Once again there is symmetry of a kind, for when Bastin came up from Exeter City in 1929, told by his mother that he must sign for Herbert Chapman, the fee was £2,500; Ian Wright, born in the birthplace of the club, south of the Thames at Woolwich, fetched £2.5 million when Crystal Palace sold him to Arsenal in 1991.

Yet, in a way, the introvert Bastin and the decidedly extrovert Wright are brothers of a kind. They were both born to be goalscorers, both would fit into the category of men whose quickness and alertness of eye and brain made them what used to be called inside lefts.

Bastin, because he had to play second fiddle to arguably the most creative inside left of them all, Alex James, scored his torrent of goals from the wing. Wright has had to make so many of his own goals, appearing alongside a centre forward more muscular than he. He is still, as he nears his 33rd birthday, capable of striking with predatory swiftness and astonishing audacity.

The full record of the two goalscorers draws them closer still: Bastin's 150 league goals came in 350 games, but his overall total of 178 compares to Wright's 150 in 224 appearances, some of them, of course, at the rarified level of European competition. Both, too, played less times for England than their skills would have suggested: Bastin scored 12 goals in 21 internationals, Wright just five in 18 appearances, nine of them as a substitute. And while we are about arithmetic, Wright has already eclipsed David Jack, whose 1931 record of scoring in nine consecutive games, fell two years ago to Wright when he scored in ten successive games.

'The introvert Bastin and the extrovert Wright are brothers of a kind'

Unlike Cliff Bastin he would not be able to claim such a perfect score in terms of sporting rectitude. Indeed, even on Monday, Wright displayed the wildness of an unbroken stallion. Bastin would never have had the opportunity to pull spitefully on the dreadlocks of an opponent, as Wright did to Regi Blinker, of Sheffield Wednesday, and nor were there accusations that he put a man out of the game, as Wright did when he stamped, "accidentally we presume", Sheffield Wednesday manager David Pleat said, on the ankle of Dejan Stefanovic. That accidental action by Wright changed the game and created the spaces he, himself, so ably exploited.

Some people in football still use the vernacular to call Wright a "boy". Bastin was called a boy because, at 17, he was an Exeter prodigy and, though full of self-assurance, never outgrew the subservience of the players of the day. Typically, he retired to become landlord of the Horse and Groom in his Devon home town, and, typically, he at times needed protecting from the bruising and buffeting of heavy-footed defenders.

The boot is sometimes on the other foot when Wright is about. He came into professionalism late, having taken an apprenticeship as an electrician and having been rejected by Brighton and Hove Albion. This rejection fuelled the hunger that manager after manager who has handled him revere. And when, on Monday night, Arsenal came from behind once again this season, Pat Rice, the acting manager, said: "In the face of adversity they won't lie down. With Ian, you're never really out of a game, and when we go to Germany, Borussia [Mönchengladbach] had better watch out."

Wright himself, the standard bearer for this trait, as well as for the indiscipline that flows like adrenalin through Arsenal blood, added: "Losing to Borussia at home was a little bit of a hiccup, but if they are thinking that it's over, they have got a little bit of a wrong attitude. We are Arsenal people, we know what it's about here."

As he travels in search of the last ghost of Arsenal's scoring past, as he waits to see whether his form, and his manners, please the awaited Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, Wright has just written a book. It separates him from the players of old and, as it deals with the inside of a prison cell as well as the mind of the modern pro, what else need it be called but *Mr Wright*?

Nelson adds to his expanding knowledge of English architecture by admiring the majestic frontage of Lichfield Cathedral

New horizons for cultured defender

Richard Hobson meets an Aston Villa import determined to make the most of his chance to examine English history

If the key to footballing success abroad is to embrace a new culture then Fernando Nelson deserves to win every individual honour going this season. Since arriving at Aston Villa the Portugal defender has immersed himself into English life with enormous zest.

Far from treating everything away from Villa Park and the training ground as a distraction, Nelson has utilised his spare time indulging his love of history and is more likely to be found walking around a stately home or castle than a golf course.

He does not dwell on the fact that Portuguese players tend to move to Spain or Italy and that none has yet made an impression over here. Instead, he points to historical links between the two countries to explain why England is a natural home from home. "Didn't we fight together to beat the French and Napoleon in Portugal in the last century?" he asked.

No, this is not your average footballer. Nelson is an intelligent man who dismisses philosophy as a concept "because it is too subjective," insists that people who live with their brain and not their heart are necessarily unhappy, and, with passion, names Afonso Henriques, the man who led Portugal to independence in the 12th century, as his favourite historical figure. Villa entertain Manchester United today and an after-match conversation between Nelson and Eric Cantona could be interesting.

Nelson, the son of a glass maker, began his career at Salgueiros before moving to Sporting Lisbon, where he played under Bobby Robson. He has won five full caps and helped his country to the world and European youth championships in 1991. Before deciding to join Villa during the summer he consulted Robson and, after a series of double training sessions to reach the required fitness, has slotted into the side at right wing back.

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL

"I have been back home once already and surprised everybody because I told them I was enjoying England," he said. "People think the two countries are completely different and the step was too big for me. They laugh at me when I tell them I am happy and that it doesn't rain every day."

Nelson's task in settling into his home at Walmley, on the outskirts of Birmingham, has been made easier by the presence of his wife, Maria, who accompanies him along the tourist trail. Together they have visited the castle at Warwick as well as Blenheim Palace, which Nelson described as a smaller version of Versailles, "the most beautiful place in the world".

"It is a waste to come to another part of the world and do nothing except play football," he said. "You can do that, but when you go home you will regret it. I want to find out what the country and the people are really like and you can discover a lot through history."

A choking football calendar means Nelson is struggling to find even a two-day break to stroll around London and take in Buckingham Palace. "I am interested in your Royal Family because we studied them at school. Your monarchy will survive," he said. "It would be better if they could all set a good example all of the time but every family has its black sheep."

Nelson feels justified in comparing the pressures on the Windsors with those at Sporting, where players were under public scrutiny almost permanently and anything that even bordered on failure was seen as intolerable.

"When we lost a game it seemed the sky had fallen in," Nelson said. "All of our problems came out in the press and then, of course, you lose confidence and trust in each other. When we played Benfica the stadium was always full and there was so much passion, but to the Portuguese that one could never be just a game.

"They have not learnt that hooliganism is a bad thing, as you have in England. Sometimes I think they see football as life and death. That is why it is important to have other interests. I liked Bobby Robson because he knows football but he also knows human beings."

Nelson has soon adapted to his role at Villa, who needed a right-sided player to stand in for the injured Gary Charles. "I knew the game would be quicker, but if you use your brain and keep your mind open you can adapt," he said.

Evans looks forward to title test at Anfield

By David Maddock

MANAGERS are fond of pointing out at this time of the year that no prizes — the monthly award to their own brethren apart — are handed out so early in the season. It is their way of reducing the expectations surrounding those sides fortunate enough to find themselves at the top of their respective divisions.

Today's contest between Liverpool and Chelsea, however, has all the appearance of one between two teams who will surely still be at the right end of the FA Carling Premiership come the season's end. Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, thinks as much, although he still managed to add the clichéd rider as his own insurance policy.

Evans has been impressed by Chelsea so far this season, and it goes without saying that he has complete faith in his own side, top of the table and with the strength in depth to stay there. Thus he anticipates an intriguing match at Anfield this afternoon.

"I believe that Chelsea have already gone from dark horses to genuine contenders for the title," he said. "Under Ruud Gullit, they have resilience at the back and are adventurous and technically adept going forward. I think they have a similar philosophy to us and they possess the game to do extremely well this season.

"I think everyone realises that they have the players, too. A lot has been made of their foreign imports and we know that Vialli is something special. But Le Beouf has been impressive, too, and Di Matteo is very proficient on the ball and he has vision in his passing. They have got Mark Hughes as well, don't forget, and he has always done well against us."

While the defeated team this afternoon will have time to repair the damage, this game will certainly provide a pointer as to the credentials of both sides. Evans is eager to test his assertion that his own team are perhaps better than any other in the country, on their day. "We are top, and that pleases me because our own form has not been the best so far this season," he said.

"What we have shown is patience and an ability to grind out results — which is perhaps something that we did not do enough last season. I know what we are capable of and I know that we can improve, so it will be interesting to see how we get on against Chelsea, who, I think, will be there at the end of the season."

Evans has one tricky selection decision to make before this afternoon's match. He has hinted strongly all week that Patrik Berger will make his full debut in place of the out-of-sorts Stan Collymore. On reflection, however, Chelsea's more open style of play may just persuade him to give Collymore one more opportunity.

"Chelsea are more of a footballing team and will not be as defensive-minded as most teams we face at Anfield this season," he said. "There may be more room for two strikers up front, and I will have to bear that in mind when I choose between Stan and Patrik, who prefers to come from deep."

☐ Nigel Winterburn, the Arsenal defender, was charged with bringing the game into disrepute by the Football Association yesterday. The decision follows incidents during the 4-1 victory over Sheffield Wednesday last Monday night.

Bromsgrove ponder Burgher bar

Non-League football by Walter Gammie

SYMON BURGHER, the Seventh Day Adventist whose beliefs make him a midweek-only footballer, scored twice to help Bromsgrove Rovers to beat Altrincham 4-0 on Tuesday night and lift them off the foot of the Vauxhall Conference, to which they had sunk after a run of seven consecutive defeats.

Burgher started out as a professional at Exeter City, but settled for part-time football and life as a schoolteacher in Birmingham after he took up a religion that forbade playing on Saturdays.

Over the past seven seasons Burgher, 29, has given Bromsgrove valuable, if intermittent, service but his days with the club may be numbered despite his productive first appearance of the season.

Brian Kenning, the Bromsgrove manager, said: "He signed for Moor Green in the Dr Martens League as well. It's a question of who phones him first, gets him to play. He had an arrangement with the previous manager that he wouldn't travel away unless he'd start in the team, and I accepted that. This season he said he wouldn't come to home games unless he played. It's reached the stage where, when we get all the squad fit, I cannot see any point in playing Symon."

The loss of six first-team regulars set Bromsgrove on their heels after victories over Welling United and Telford United. Although Nick Amos and Kevin Richardson, the club captain who has had a cruciate ligament operation, will remain out of action for some weeks, the other casualties are returning to fitness.

Bromsgrove's assignment today is at Stevenage Borough, the champions. "I take Macclesfield and Stevenage as the most formidable-looking teams in the Conference," Kenning said. "What they have, of course, is strength in depth." He could not quite hide all trace of envy.

Chairman dies, page 9

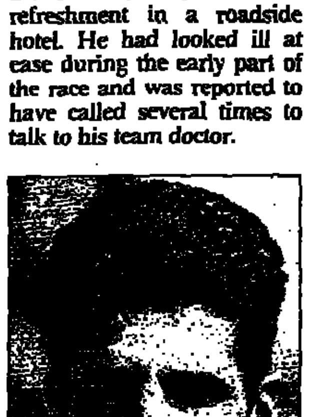
CYCLING

Indurain drops out on mountain stage

By Peter Bryan

MIGUEL INDURAIN, the world's outstanding stage rider of the last decade with a record five successive Tour de France victories, made a dramatic exit from the Tour of Spain on the thirteenth stage yesterday.

With 25 kilometres remaining of the mountain stage between Oviedo and Covadonga, Induráin abandoned the race to seek rest and refreshment in a roadside hotel. He had looked ill at ease during the early part of the race and was reported to have called several times to talk to his team doctor.



Induráin: out of home tour

He had been reluctant to compete in his national tour, which he last contested in 1991, but, after finishing eleventh in the Tour de France and failing to win the Olympic title in Atlanta, his sponsors, Banesto, put pressure on their leading rider to take part. Induráin had indicated earlier in the season that this could be his last.

After his retirement yesterday, it is now doubtful whether Induráin will be either fit or willing to contest the time-trial and road-race world championships next month.

Induráin had started the day second, more than a minute behind the leader, Alex Zülle, of Switzerland, with Laurent Jalabert, of France, a team-mate of Zülle and last year's winner, third. A late attack by Zülle and Jalabert near the end of the mountain-top finish took them clear. Jalabert went on to win the stage by a length from Zülle, who vigorously pointed at his colleague to indicate his admiration. Zülle retains the overall lead.

Today sees another mountain stage, 170 kilometres from Cangas de Onis to Carbenceno.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Seattle 7 Texas 8; New York 9 Baltimore 3 (first match), New York 9 Baltimore 10 (second match); Detroit 3 Boston 8; Cleveland 9 Kansas City 1; Chicago 8 Minnesota 3

NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Diego 0 Los Angeles 7; Pittsburgh 6 Cincinnati 4; Philadelphia 2 New York 7; Atlanta 1 Montreal 5, St Louis 5 Chicago 4 (in 13 innings); San Francisco 11 Colorado 4.

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CUP: Group A: Panionios (Gr) 72 CSKA Moscow 67; Limoges (Fr) 62 Maccabi Tel Aviv 69. Group B: Olympiakos (Gr) 64 Alba Berlin 67; Cibona Zagreb (Cro) 81 Estudiantes (Sp) 66. Bologna 87 Charleroi (Bel) 78. Group D: Dynamo Moscow 70 Pau-Orthez (Fr) 65. Efes Pilsen Istanbul 75 Virtus Bologna 60; Ulkerspor (Tur) 87 Stefanel Milano (It) 73

BOWLS

BROADSTAIRS: Open tournament: Men: Pairs: Fourth round: A Diplock and B Gedney bt V Field and G Yandle 21-19, D Hoddinott and E Long bt F Cuthbert and H Taylor 27-16; D Smith and R Cook bt A Rogers and D Harris 19-15; A Edwards and J Fishlock bt J Dunn and P Pinder 31-10; A King and A May bt L Ellis and C Chew 21-18; R Slater and M Ryan bt G Humphreys and L Hewton 23-21 (after extra end). F Dean and F Wigmore bt D Moore and F Ash 21-10; N Wright and L Haynes bt J Harris and A Dennington 17-16 (after extra end). Quarter-finals: Hoddinott and Long bt Diplock and Gedney 23-17; Smith and Cook bt Edwards and Fishlock 23-21; Slater and Ryan bt King and May 23-22, Wright and Haynes bt Dean and Wigmore 27-15. Women: Pairs: Quarter-finals: N Biddlecombe and C Jay bt E Brockwell and B Ansell 19-18, L Fowler and R Coleman bt J Hadfield and L Walker 22-11; L Sharp and D Harrington bt J Chubb and A Jessett 16-13; M Webster and M Crothers bt J Stern and A Hodge 23-11

BOXING

MANCHESTER: IBF inter-continental super-featherweight championship: Peter Judson (Keighley) bt Dean Phillips (Llanelli) rsf 10th.

CYCLING

TOUR OF SPAIN: Twelfth stage (188km, Benavente to Alto del Naranco): 1, D Nardello (It, Mapei) 4hr 30min 19sec. 2, A Peron (It, Motorola) same time; 3, P Meinert (Den, Telekom) at 14sec; 4, A Canzonieri (It, Saeco) at 22sec; 5, A Zülle (Switz, ONCE) at 2:26, 6, L Jalabert (Fr, ONCE) 2:31; 7, T Rominger (Switz, Mapei) 2:33. Overall classification: 1, Zülle 52hr 17min 32 sec. 2, Jalabert at 1min 17sec. 3, M Induráin (Sp) at 2:04; 4, M Mauri (Sp) at 3:09; 5, N Stephen (Aus) at 3:55.

CAIRNS, Australia: World mountain bike championships: Men's under-23 cross-country (49km) 1, D Acquaroli (It) 2hr 16min 20.4sec; 2, M Martinez (Fr) at 2min 43.6sec. 3, C Evans (Aus) at 2:49.7. Men's junior cross-country (39.6km): 1, J A Hermida Ramos (Sp) 1hr 54min 31.2sec. 2, M Reynaud (Fr) at 8.2sec; 3, H Austad (Nor) at 1:58.3. Women's junior cross-country (20.8km): 1, H Eriksson (Swe) 1hr 14min 15.6sec; 2, E Ohrstig (Swe) at 2min 13.0sec; 3, S Mori (Switz) at 2:37.1

EQUESTRIANISM

BLENHEIM: Vauxhall Monterey International Horse Trials: Leading dressage positions (GB unless stated): 1, King Solomon III (M King) 40.4pts. 2, The Tourmaline Rose (P Funnell) 41.8, 3 equal, Cooley Koriukl (P Surl), James Bigglesworth (M Clayton-Bailey) and Vambi Charboniere (M Todd, NZ) 45

FOOTBALL

WORLD CUP QUALIFIER: Oceania group: Papua New Guinea 2 Vanuatu 1 (in Lae). Asian group: Qatar 3 Sri Lanka 0 (in Doha).

SUPERCOPA: First round, second leg: São Paulo (Br) 2 Olimpia (Par) 1 (3-3 on aggregate; Olimpia win 5-3 on penalties, in São Paulo); Racing Club (Arg) 0 Argentinos Juniors 0 (in Buenos Aires)

Thursday's late results

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Swindon 1 Tottenham Hotspur 3

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Nottingham Forest 2 Derby County 2; Bolton 2 Leeds United 0. Third division: Darlington 3 Rochdale 4.

FA YOUTH CUP: Preliminary round: Bognor Regis 3 Burgess Hill 0; Lancaster 0 Barnsley 4, Worksop 0 Bury 2, Nantwich 1 Port Vale 2; St Albans 3 Waltham Abbey 1; Southwick 3 Raynes Park Vale 2; Lancaster City 0 Barnsley 4; Northwich Victoria 3 Cheadle Town 1. Replays: Worcester City 1 Mangotsfield 0; Hastings Town 2 Whitstable Town 0; Farsley Celtic 0 Scunthorpe United 0 (aet, Farsley won 7-6 on penalties).

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Whitchurch 1 Brockenhurst 1

WELSH CUP: First round replay: Mostyn 0 Llandudno 0 (aet, Mostyn won 10-9 on penalties).

PORTUGUESE SUPER CUP: FC Porto 5 Benfica 0 (Porto win 6-0 on agg)

FRENCH LEAGUE: Auxerre 2 Nantes 2.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: El Salvador 0 Venezuela 1 (in San Salvador)

GOLF

LOCH LOMOND: World Invitational: Early leading second-round scores (GB and Ire unless stated) 139: T Bjorn (Den) 70, 69. 140: J van de Velde (Fr) 75, 65 141: N Faldo 68, 73; D Clarke 68, 73; J Spence 67, 74. 143: B Lane 69, 74; P Fulke (Swe) 71, 72; D Howell 70, 73 144: J Lomas 71, 73 145: A Sherborne 73, 72; P Linhart (Sp) 69, 76, J Coceres (Arg) 68, 77; M McNulty (Zim) 73, 72; T Gogele (Ger) 70, 75. 146: R Chapman 71, 75; I Garrido (Sp) 72, 74, M Gates 76, 70. 147: D Smyth 75, 72; E Darcy 71, 76; M A Jiménez (Sp) 77, 70; M Farry (Fr) 76, 71 148: P O'Malley (Aus) 70, 78; A Hunter 77, 71; G Turner (NZ) 78, 70; A Oldcorn 75, 73. 149: P Haugsrud (Nor) 77, 72; J Haeggman (Swe) 76, 73; G Sherry 74, 75, J Payne 73, 76; D Cooper 74, 75, S Luña (Sp) 76, 73; M Campbell (NZ) 69, 80

ENDICOTT, New York: BC Open: Leading first-round scores (US unless stated). 66: B Claar 67; B Faxon, J McGovern, W Levi, T Tolles, P Jordan, L Rinker 68: G Waite (NZ), J Daly, T Woods, J Delsing, B Fleisher, P Burke, F Funk, T Tryba, J Hart.

BILBAO: Eulen Open: Leading third-round scores (GB unless stated): 210: S Scahill (Aus) 74, 67, 69 211: L Lee (Eng) 70, 70, 71; J Sota (Sp) 70, 71, 70; J Quiros (Sp) 68, 71, 72. Selected British scores: 212: A Sandywell 71, 72, 69 213: M McGuire 73, 70, 70; C Watts 69, 73, 71; I Garbutt 70, 71, 72. 215: S Brown 70, 73, 72. 216: R Winchester 73, 72, 71; J Mellor 73, 72, 71; A Barnett 75, 69, 72.

HOCKEY

THE HAGUE: International tournament: Klein Zwitserland 5 Teddington 2; Amsterdam 5 Cannock 2 (match abandoned)

MOTOR RACING

ESTORIL: Practice times for Portuguese Grand Prix: 1, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1min 23.554sec; 2, D Hill (GB, Williams) 1:24.281; 3, U Katayama (Japan, Tyrrell) 1:24.259; 4, E Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 1:24.477, 5, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 1:24.784; 6, J Alesi (Fr, Benetton) 1:24.803; 7, G Berger (Austria, Benetton) 1:24.832; 8, M Salo (Fin, Tyrrell) 1:25.234; 9, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren) 1:25.403; 10, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Sauber) 1:25.587; 11, R Barrichello (Br, Jordan) 1:25.592; 12, M Brundle (GB, Jordan) 1:25.705; 13, P Diniz (Br, Ligier) 1:25.944; 14, D Coulthard (GB, McLaren) 1:25.980; 15, R Rosset (Br, Footwork) 1:26.065; 16, J Verstappen (Holl, Footwork) 1:26.288; 17, O Panis (Fr, Ligier) 1:26.422, 18, P Lamy (Por, Minardi) 1:26.515; 19, J Herbert (GB, Sauber) 1:26.700; 20, G Lavaggi (It, Minardi) 1:28.356

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS (after 14 rounds): Drivers: 1, Hill 81pts; 2, Villeneuve 68; 3, Schumacher 49; 4, Alesi 44; 5, Hakkinen 27; 6, Coulthard 18; 7, Barrichello 14; 8, Panis 13; 9, Irvine 9; 10 equal, Frentzen and Brundle 6; 12, Salo 5; 13, Herbert 14; 14, Diniz 2; 15, Verstappen 1. Constructors: 1, Williams 149pts; 2, Benetton 61; 3, Ferrari 58; 4, McLaren 45, 5, Jordan 20; 6, Ligier 15; 7, Sauber 10; 8, Tyrrell 5, 9, Footwork 1

REMAINING GRANDS PRIX: Tomorrow: Portuguese, Estoril, Oct 13: Japanese, Suzuka

REAL TENNIS

FONTAINEBLEAU: European Open Championship: Final: M Gooding (GB) bt C Brey (GB) 6-5, 6-3, 6-2.

SQUASH

CAIRO: Men's Open championship: Semi-finals: Jansher Khan (Pak) bt P Nicol (Eng) 17-16, 9-15, 15-2, 15-9; R Eyles (Aus) bt Zubair Jahan (Pak) 15-13, 16-8, 15-8.

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Sheffield 54 Coventry 42, Middlesbrough 54 Bradford 42.

TENNIS

DAVIS CUP (matches in progress): World group: Semi-finals: France 0 Italy 1; Czech Republic 0 Sweden 2. Other qualifying matches: Spain 1 Denmark 0; Croatia 0 Australia 2; Switzerland 2 Morocco 0; Ukraine 2 Norway 0; Russia 2 Hungary 0. Holland 1 New Zealand 1; Romania 0 Belgium 1. Euro-Africa zone: Group one: Zimbabwe 2 Finland 0. Group two: Slovakia 2 Poland 0. South American zone: Group one: Chile 1 Peru 0, Ecuador 1 Uruguay 0. Asia-Oceania zone: Group one: Taiwan 2 Indonesia 0 Group two: Uzbekistan 2 Thailand 0

THE WIRRAL: LTA satellite tournament (GB unless stated). First round: F Stauder (Ger) bt A Vysand (Ger) 6-2, 7-5, D Fukarek (Cz) bt J Hage (Ger) 6-1, 6-2; N Watts bt M Turland 6-3, 7-5; F Roval (Swe) bt B Kokavec (Can) 6-3, 6-2; A Richardson bt C Bennett 6-4, 6-1, L Gloria (US) bt B Heran 6-4, 6-2; J Fox bt C Singer (US) 6-4, 6-4; C Beecher bt S Pender 6-4, 6-7, 6-1. Second round: C Wilkinson bt P Robinson 6-3, 7-6; N Weal bt A Gavrilov (Russ) 6-1, 6-2; Richardson bt Gloria 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; Fox bt Beecher 7-6, 6-2, Fukarek bt Stauder 6-2, 6-2, R Coenig (SA) bt A Foster 7-6, 6-2; Roval bt Watts 6-1, 6-3; N Gould bt C Wall 6-4, 6-3. Quarter-finals: Wilkinson bt Fukarek 7-6, 6-1. Roval bt Koenig 7-5, 6-2; Weal wo Gould; Richardson bt Fox 6-3, 3-6, 7-6.

TOKYO: Women's tournament: Second round: Wang Shi-Ting (Taiwan) bt A Glass (Ger) 6-1, 7-5; K Po (US) bt A Sugiyama (Japan) 6-2, 6-7, 6-4; A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt R Grande (It) 6-2, 6-1; M Pierce (Fr) bt Park Sung-Hee (S Kor) 7-5, 6-2. Quarter-finals: Po bt Pierce 7-5, 6-4; M Seles (US) bt N Sawamatsu (Japan) 6-1, 6-4; K Date (Japan) bt A Coetzer (SA) 6-3, 6-0; Sánchez Vicario bt Wang 4-6, 6-1, 6-1

WARSAW: Women's tournament: Second round: B Paulus (Austria) bt S Kleinova (Cz) 1-6, 6-3, 6-1; K Habsudova (Slovakia) bt A Olsza (Pol) 6-4, 6-3; S Farina (It) bt K Straczy (Pol) 6-0, 5-7, 6-3; C Cristea (Rom) bt A Montolio (Sp) 6-1, 6-7, 6-2.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Larder's strange faces in unfamiliar places

By Christopher Irvine

GIVEN that a fifth of the original squad has dropped out and the tour plans have been redrafted several times, the Great Britain management would be advised to do a headcount and check all onward destinations as the party arrives in Papua New Guinea today on the first leg of the six-week Pacific tour.

Some faces in the party of 31 are unfamiliar and so are some of the places being visited now that Australia is no longer on the itinerary. The dispute between the Super League in England and the Australian Rugby League (ARL), has meant a more exotic first half of the tour, in Papua and the previously unvisited Fiji.

New Zealand and a three-match international series next month is the start of business proper. It is then that Phil Larder, the Britain coach, might curse the mishaps that have befallen him. Being forced to leave Gary Connolly and Jason Robinson at home was wounding enough. That they are playing rugby union is rubbing the salt in.

Connolly and Robinson have contracts with the ARL, which ordered the pair and Lee Jackson out of Larder's squad. Shaun Edwards then withdrew for knee surgery, Paul Newlove tore a hamstring, John Bentley had new baby commitments and a winter offer from Newcastle rugby union club, and, finally, Steve McNamara tripped on some broken glass.

It leaves a young, inexperienced squad. Yet, from a similar situation on the tour to Papua and New Zealand in 1990, when eight players withdrew, a talented new generation emerged. There are the players on board now for that to happen again.

PARTY: Backs: J Critchley (Keighley), R Goulding (St Helens), I Harris (Warrington), J Hayes (St Helens), A Hunte (St Helens), B-J Mather (Perth Western Reds), D Powell (Keighley), S Prescott (St Helens), K Radlinski (Wigan), J Roper (Warrington), K Senior (Sheffield), A Smith (Castleford), S Spruce (Bradford), A Sullivan (St Helens), T Tollett (London)

Forwards: D Betts (Auckland, vice-captain), D Bradbury (Oldham), P Broadbent (Sheffield), M Cassidy (Wigan), K Cunningham (St Helens), B Dwyer (Bradford), A Farrell (Wigan, captain), N Harmon (Leeds), C Joynt (St Helens), J Lowes (Bradford), B McDermott (Bradford), A Morley (Leeds), S Molloy (Featherstone), T O'Connor (Wigan), R Phillips (Workington), P Sculthorpe (Warrington)

ITINERARY: Sept 25: Papua New Guinea XIII (Mount Hagen), 28: Papua New Guinea (Lae); Oct 2: Fiji XIII (Nadi); 5: Fiji (Nadi); 10: Lion Red Cup XIII (Carlaw Park, Auckland), 15: New Zealand XIII (Wellington); 18: New Zealand (Ericsson Stadium, Auckland); 22: New Zealand Maoris (Whangarei); 25, New Zealand (Palmerston North); Nov 1: New Zealand (Christchurch)

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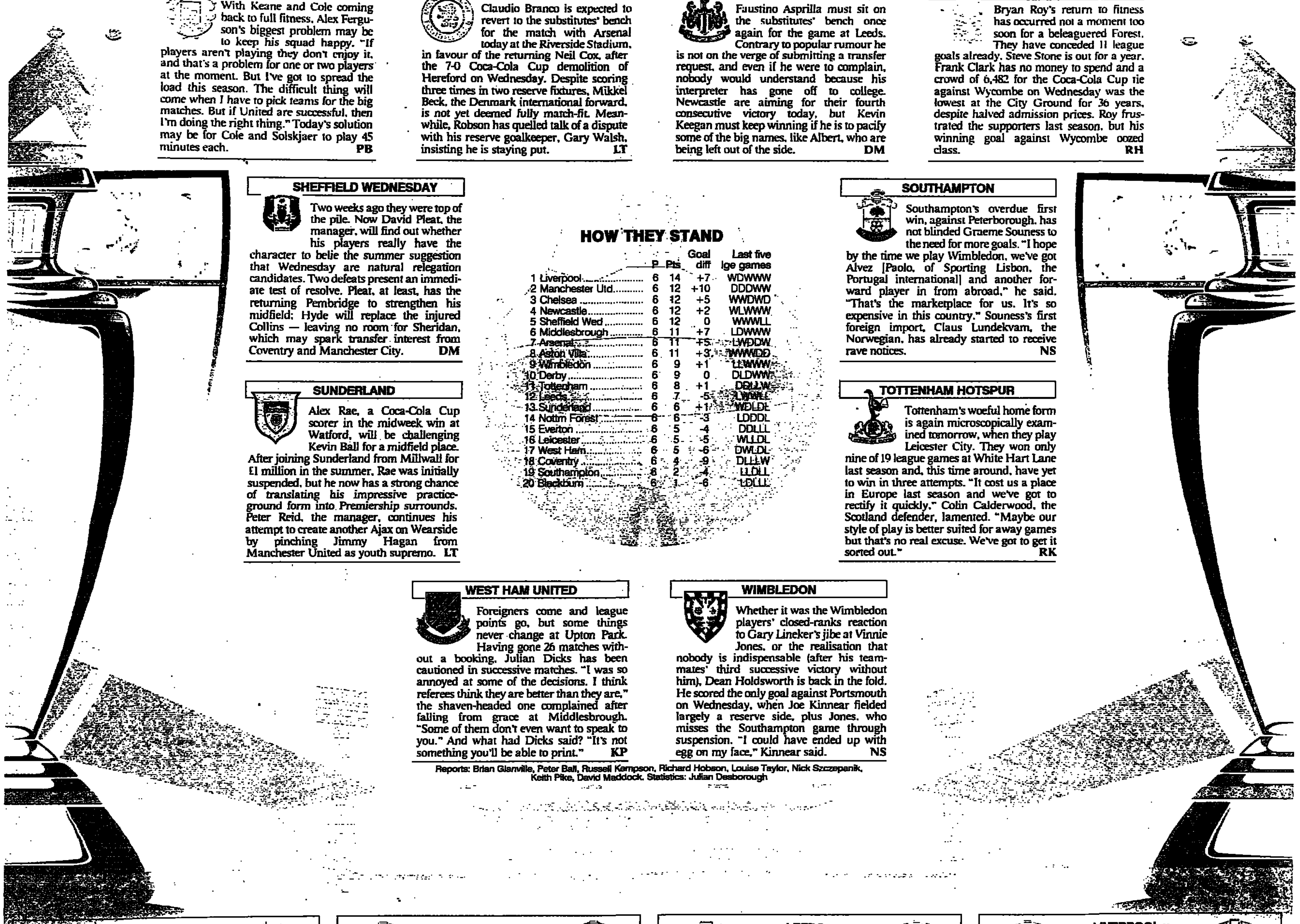
THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND



ARSENAL

No wonder Arsenal are tempted to bring back Tony Adams against Middlesbrough's multi-talented attack. Wretchedly inept against Borussia Mönchengladbach, Arsenal's defence creaked horribly in the early stages of the 4-1 win against Sheffield Wednesday. But Patrick Vieira, the French midfield player, made a promising debut and is eligible to play against the Germans on Wednesday in Cologne. There is little wrong with Arsenal's attack, even without Bergkamp. **BG**

ASTON VILLA

Aston Villa gave Manchester United a nasty surprise at the start of last season, when they won 3-1, prompting Alan Hansen to utter those memorable lines on *Match of the Day* that "you never win anything with kids". This time, the season is well under way, with United in contention at the top of the table, and Villa also challenging. Brian Little, the Villa manager, will be expecting Dwight Yorke, last year's leading scorer, to begin firing. Thus far, he has been drawing blanks.

BLACKBURN ROVERS

Ray Harford is getting a little agitated at speculation about his next purchase. He assured the media yesterday that no new arrival is imminent, but there may be a fresh face in the Blackburn side today. Jason Wilcox is likely to return for his first game of the season after injuring a knee in the summer. "It has been a frustrating time because I finally got fit after a cruciate ligament injury that kept me out for a year, and then I get another problem. But I feel ready," he said. **DM**

CHELSEA

A hard test for unbeaten Chelsea at Liverpool. Frank Leboeuf returns, having missed the win at Blackpool in the Coca-Cola Cup on Wednesday. Vialli is back, too, but in what kind of form? He had a strangely passive game last Sunday against Aston Villa. But Jody Morris goes from strength to strength in midfield. Ruud Gullit seems likely to persist with a flat back four, but he must be worried that Chelsea's most dangerous players last Sunday were both defenders: Leboeuf and Petrescu. **BG**

COVENTRY CITY

Ron Atkinson failed in his recent attempt to enlist Paul McGrath, the Aston Villa defender, but the word is that he is still keen to add to his modest £17.5 million outlay in 19 months at the Highfield Road helm. However, the deserved win over Leeds United and the undeserved Coca-Cola Cup draw with Birmingham City — Coventry should have won that match comfortably — could convince him that good times are just around the corner. Big Ron in closed chequebook shock? **RK**

DERBY COUNTY

Derby may have to break up the back three that has helped them to take seven points from three games and given Jim Smith, the manager, what he considers a perfectly balanced defence. His choice of Matt Carbon, 21, against Manchester United caused a huge surprise but the youngster's ability to hit long passes on the left complements Stimac and Rowett. However, he suffered delayed concussion a week ago, broke down in training on Thursday and is doubtful. **RH**

EVERTON

Among Everton's unexpected problems this season has been the poor form of Andrei Kanchelskis. "I don't know whether it's a hangover from Euro 96 or whether he is just struggling to live up to the standards he set last season," Joe Royle said, ten days ago. Since then Royle has spotted signs that the hangover might be passing. The search for a striker to partner Duncan Ferguson continues, but if the supply line from Kanchelskis returns, it will make Ferguson's life easier. **PB**

LEEDS UNITED

George Graham's relaxed, open approach to the press since he returned to the game has been striking. Very different to the tight, unyielding manager of Arsenal days. Perhaps his year in the press box played its part — but one or two suspect that behind the relaxed manner, he is still as cautious as ever. He is holding his weekly press conferences on Thursday rather than the traditional Friday — "In case I've got something up my sleeve which I don't want you to see." **PB**

LEICESTER CITY

Leicester's side is likely to have a more cosmopolitan look in the coming weeks. After two trial games in the reserves, Sacha Lenhart, 22, the German winger, has signed a one-month contract as the club's first capture under the Bosman ruling. He was a free agent who played in Belgium for Royal Antwerp last season. Meanwhile, Pontus Kaamark, the Sweden defender, is continuing his rehabilitation after cruciate ligament surgery in January and should be in first-team contention next month. **RH**

LIVERPOOL

The suggestion on Merseyside is that Patrik Berger, the Czech Republic international, will make his first start for the club. But do not be too sure. Roy Evans, the manager, was keeping his cards close to his chest yesterday and even though he is expected to drop Collymore, his £8 million forward, he is perverse enough to give him one last opportunity. Otherwise Liverpool will be unchanged from the side that took them to the top of the Premiership against Leicester last Sunday. **DM**

MANCHESTER UNITED

With Keane and Cole coming back to full fitness, Alex Ferguson's biggest problem may be to keep his squad happy. "If players aren't playing they don't enjoy it, and that's a problem for one or two players at the moment. But I've got to spread the load this season. The difficult thing will come when I have to pick teams for the big matches. But if United are successful, then I'm doing the right thing." Today's solution may be for Cole and Solskjaer to play 45 minutes each. **PB**

MIDDLESBROUGH

Claudio Branco is expected to revert to the substitutes' bench for the match with Arsenal today at the Riverside Stadium, in favour of the returning Neil Cox, after the 7-0 Coca-Cola Cup demolition of Hereford on Wednesday. Despite scoring three times in two reserve fixtures, Mikkel Beck, the Denmark international forward, is not yet deemed fully match-fit. Meanwhile, Robson has quelled talk of a dispute with his reserve goalkeeper, Gary Walsh, insisting he is staying put. **LT**

NEWCASTLE UNITED

Faustino Asprilla must sit on the substitutes' bench once again for the game at Leeds. Contrary to popular rumour he is not on the verge of submitting a transfer request, and even if he were to complain, nobody would understand because his interpreter has gone off to college. Newcastle are aiming for their fourth consecutive victory today, but Kevin Keegan must keep winning if he is to pacify some of the big names, like Albert, who are being left out of the side. **DM**

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Bryan Roy's return to fitness has occurred not a moment too soon for a beleaguered Forest. They have conceded 11 league goals already. Steve Stone is out for a year. Frank Clark has no money to spend and a crowd of 6,482 for the Coca-Cola Cup tie against Wycombe on Wednesday was the lowest at the City Ground for 36 years, despite halved admission prices. Roy frustrated the supporters last season, but his winning goal against Wycombe oozed class. **RH**

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Two weeks ago they were top of the pile. Now David Pleat, the manager, will find out whether his players really have the character to belie the summer suggestion that Wednesday are natural relegation candidates. Two defeats present an immediate test of resolve. Pleat, at least, has the returning Pembridge to strengthen his midfield: Hyde will replace the injured Collins — leaving no room for Sheridan, which may spark transfer interest from Coventry and Manchester City. **DM**

SUNDERLAND

Alex Rae, a Coca-Cola Cup scorer in the midweek win at Watford, will be challenging Kevin Ball for a midfield place. After joining Sunderland from Millwall for £1 million in the summer, Rae was initially suspended, but he now has a strong chance of translating his impressive practice-ground form into Premiership surrounds. Peter Reid, the manager, continues his attempt to create another Ajax on Wearside by pinching Jimmy Hagan from Manchester United as youth supremo. **LT**

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Last five lge games
1 Liverpool	6	14	+7	WDWWW
2 Manchester Utd	6	12	+10	DDDWW
3 Chelsea	6	12	+5	WWDWD
4 Newcastle	6	12	+2	WLWWW
5 Sheffield Wed	6	12	0	WWWLL
6 Middlesbrough	6	11	+7	LDWWW
7 Arsenal	6	11	+5	LWDDW
8 Aston Villa	6	11	+3	WWWDD
9 Wimbledon	6	9	+1	LLWWW
10 Derby	6	9	0	DLDWW
11 Tottenham	6	8	+1	DDLLW
12 Leeds	6	7	-5	LWWLL
13 Sunderland	6	6	+1	WDLDL
14 Nottm Forest	6	6	-3	LDDDL
15 Everton	6	5	-4	DDLLL
16 Leicester	6	5	-5	WLLDL
17 West Ham	6	5	-6	DWLDL
18 Coventry	6	4	-9	DLLLW
19 Southampton	6	2	-4	LLDLL
20 Blackburn	6	1	-6	LDLLL

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton's overdue first win, against Peterborough, has not blinded Graeme Souness to the need for more goals. "I hope by the time we play Wimbledon, we've got Alvez [Paolo, of Sporting Lisbon, the Portugal international] and another forward player in from abroad," he said. "That's the marketplace for us. It's so expensive in this country." Souness's first foreign import, Claus Lundekvam, the Norwegian, has already started to receive rave notices. **NS**

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Tottenham's woeful home form is again microscopically examined tomorrow, when they play Leicester City. They won only nine of 19 league games at White Hart Lane last season and, this time around, have yet to win in three attempts. "It cost us a place in Europe last season and we've got to rectify it quickly," Colin Calderwood, the Scotland defender, lamented. "Maybe our style of play is better suited for away games but that's no real excuse. We've got to get it sorted out." **RK**

WEST HAM UNITED

Foreigners come and league points go, but some things never change at Upton Park. Having gone 26 matches without a booking, Julian Dicks has been cautioned in successive matches. "I was so annoyed at some of the decisions. I think referees think they are better than they are," the shaven-headed one complained after falling from grace at Middlesbrough. "Some of them don't even want to speak to you." And what had Dicks said? "It's not something you'll be able to print." **KP**

WIMBLEDON

Whether it was the Wimbledon players' closed-ranks reaction to Gary Lineker's jibe at Vinnie Jones, or the realisation that nobody is indispensable (after his teammates' third successive victory without him), Dean Holdsworth is back in the fold. He scored the only goal against Portsmouth on Wednesday, when Joe Kinnear fielded largely a reserve side, plus Jones, who misses the Southampton game through suspension. "I could have ended up with egg on my face," Kinnear said. **NS**

Reports: Brian Glanville, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Richard Hobson, Louise Taylor, Nick Szczepanik, Keith Pike, David Maddock. Statistics: Julian Desborough

ASTON VILLA v MANCHESTER UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-3, —, 0-0, 3-0, 1-1, 0-1, 1-0, 1-2, 1-2, 3-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

ASTON VILLA (from) M Oakes, S Staunton, G Southgate, A Townsend, I Taylor, M Draper, S Milosevic, D Yorke, T Johnson, A Wright, F Nelson, U Ehiogu, S Curcic, A Rachel.

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, G Neville, G Pallister, R Johnsen, D Irwin, K Poborsky, D Beckham, R Keane, R Giggs, E Cantona, O Solskjaer, D May, B McClair, A Cole, J Cruyff, R van der Gouw.

BLACKBURN v EVERTON

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, —, —, 2-3, 2-0, 3-0, 0-3

HOW THEY LINE UP

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T Flowers, H Berg, J Kenna, C Hendry, C Coleman, T Sherwood, L Bohinen, G Flitcroft, G Donis, C Sutton, K Gallacher, G Fenton, G Croft, N Marker, S Given, W McKinlay, S Ripley, J Wilcox, N Gudmundsson.

EVERTON (from): N Southall, P Gerrard, E Barrett, M Hottiger, A Hinchcliffe, C Short, D Unsworth, J Ebbrell, J Parkinson, A Grant, A Kanchelskis, D Ferguson, P Rideout, M Branch, V Samways, A Limpar.

LEEDS v NEWCASTLE

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, 1-0, —, —, —, 1-1, 0-0, 0-1.

HOW THEY LINE UP

LEEDS UNITED (probable): N Martyn, G Kelly, R Jobson, D Wetherall, I Harte, R Wallace, M Ford, C Palmer, L Sharpe, I Rush, M Hateley

NEWCASTLE UNITED (probable): P Smicek, S Watson, S Howey, D Peacock, J Beresford, D Batty, R Lee, P Beardsley, D Ginola, A Shearer, L Ferdinand

LIVERPOOL v CHELSEA

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-0, 2-1, —, 4-1, 2-0, 1-2, 2-1, 2-1, 3-1, 2-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

LIVERPOOL (from) D James, J McAteer, S I Bjornebye, M Wright, D Matteo, P Babb, J Scales, N Ruddock, J Barnes, S McManaman, R Fowler, S Collymore, P Berger, J Redknapp, M Kennedy, A Warner, L Jones.

CHELSEA (from) K Hitchcock, C Burley, S Clarke, D Wise, R Di Matteo, F Leboeuf, M Duberry, A Myers, M Hughes, D Lee, J Morris, G Vialli, M Nicholls, F Grodas, D Petrescu, J Spencer, E Johnsen, S Minto.

MIDDLESBROUGH v ARSENAL

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, 0-1, —, —, —, 1-0, —, —, 2-3

HOW THEY LINE UP

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): A Miller, N Cox, C Fleming, Branco, S Vickers, D Whyte, Emerson, P Whelan, R Mustoe, N Barmby, P Stamp, Juninho, F Ravanelli, A Moore, C Hendrie, C Hignett, B Roberts.

ARSENAL (from): D Seaman, L Dixon, N Winterburn, A Linighan, S Bould, M Keown, D Platt, I Wright, J Hartson, P Merson, P Vieira, M Rose, J Lukic, P Shaw, S Marshall, A Adams, R Parlour, S Morrow

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v WEST HAM

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 0-0, 1-2, —, —, 2-2, —, —, 1-1, 1-1.

HOW THEY LINE UP

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M Crossley, A Fettis, D Lyttle, A-I Haaland, C Cooper, N Jerkan, S Chettle, S Pearce, D Phillips, C Bart-Williams, S Gemmill, C Allen, I Woan, D Saunders, P McGregor, J Lee, A Silenzi, B Roy, V Warner, R Howe.

WEST HAM UNITED (from): S Mautone, P Shilton, T Breacker, J Dicks, S Potts, S Bilic, I Dowie, M Rieper, J Moncur, S Lazarides, I Bishop, M Hughes, S Bowen, S Jones, K Rowland, F Lampard, A Whitbread, A Cottee, R Ferdinand, I Dumitrescu.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v DERBY

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, 2-1, 1-1, 1-0, —, —, —, —, —, —

HOW THEY LINE UP

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from). K Pressman, P Atherton, D Stefanovic, J Newsome, S Oakes, D Walker, I Nolan, S Nicol, G Whittingham, G Hyde, M Pembridge, R Blinker, R Humphreys, A Booth, M Bright, D Hirst, L Briscoe.

DERBY COUNTY (from): R Hoult, A Quy, G Rowett, I Stimac, P Parker, J Laursen, L Carsley, C Powell, D Powell, R van der Laan, C Dailly, P Simpson, M Gabbiadini, D Sturridge, A Ward, K Cooper.

SUNDERLAND v COVENTRY

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, 0-0, —, —, —, —, —.

HOW THEY LINE UP

SUNDERLAND (from): A Coton, D Preece, G Hall, P Bracewell, K Ball, A Melville, G Ord, S Agnew, P Stewart, N Quinn, C Russell, M Gray, L Howey, M Bridges, A Rae, D Kelly, B Angell

COVENTRY CITY (from): S Ogrizovic, B Borrows, L Daish, R Shaw, D Burrows, P Telfer, K Richardson, G McAllister, J Salako, D Dublin, N Whelan, A Ducros, P Williams, E Jess, M Hall, J Filan, M O'Neill, M Isaias.

LEADING SCORERS

6: F Ravanelli (Middlesbrough)

5: I Wright (Arsenal)

4: E Cantona (Manchester United), Juninho (Middlesbrough), L Ferdinand (Newcastle United), K Campbell (Nottingham Forest)

3: F Leboeuf (Chelsea), S McManaman (Liverpool), A Shearer (Newcastle United), A Booth (Sheffield Wednesday), R Humphreys (Sheffield Wednesday), C Armstrong (Tottenham Hotspur)

The official internet site of the FA Carling Premiership is at http://www.fa-carling.com/

TOMORROW

TOTTENHAM v LEICESTER

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 5-0, —, —, —, —, —, —, —, 1-0, —.

HOW THEY LINE UP

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from). I Walker, E Baardsen, J Edinburgh, S Nethercott, S Campbell, S Carr, D Howells, R Rosenthal, C Armstrong, R Allen, D Anderton, A Sinton, A Nielsen, C Calderwood, C Wilson, R Fox.

LEICESTER CITY (from): K Keller, S Grayson, N Lennon, S Walsh, M Whitlow, J Watts, S Prior, F Rolling, M Izzet, M Robins, E Heskey, S Claridge, I Marshall, J Lawrence, N Lewis, G Parker, S Campbell, K Poole.

MONDAY

WIMBLEDON v SOUTHAMPTON

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-2, 2-0, 2-1, 3-3, 1-1, 0-1, 1-2, 1-0, 0-2, 1-2

HOW THEY LINE UP

WIMBLEDON (from): N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, V Jones, D Blackwell, B Thatcher, O Leonhardsen, R Earle, E Ekoku, D Holdsworth, M Gayle, C Perry, J Goodman, B McAllister, N Ardley, S Castledine, A Clarke, J Euell, P Fear, P Heald.

SOUTHAMPTON (from): D Beasant, J Dodd, A Neilson, F Benali, S Charlton, R Dryden, K Monkou, J Magilton, N Maddison, M Le Tissier, N Shipperley, G Watson, N Heaney, P Tisdale, N Moss, R Slater, C Lundekvam.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today

10.45pm BBC1 Match of the Day (highlights)

Tomorrow

10am Sky Sports Goals on Sunday

4pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday
Tottenham Hotspur v Leicester City (live)

Monday

8pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday night football
Wimbledon v Southampton (live)

RUGBY UNION

Gloucester must be wary of Bath backlash

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

WHEN was the last time that Bath cowered in the lower half of the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship, staring up at seven teams? It is not a situation to which the perennial league winners are accustomed, nor one that they enjoy.

In normal circumstances, they would not look at Kingsholm, where they play Gloucester today, as a place to go for sustenance, yet the professional game has left Gloucester struggling for a foothold among the elite. They have young, ambitious players on their books, but those concerned need time in which to mature, and they will not get it from the big spenders.

In 1987, the inaugural year of league rugby, Bath were beaten in two of their first three games. Now, having lost in successive weeks to Leicester and Wasps, Gloucester may prove the whipping boys.

"We made 17 handling errors against Wasps and lost the ball in the tackle 12 times," Brian Ashton, the Bath coach, said. "In addition, we gave away ten penalties and, when you add that all together, it's an enormous amount of ball to give the opposition.

"Wasps scored three tries from two turnovers and a dropped pass by Mike Catt which, on the day, was par for the course, because a lot of the errors were made by those you might call the top-ranked players. In the first half, we didn't play the game we had talked about in training: we didn't even attempt the game that brought us 87 points against Swansea."

So back against Gloucester come the cool, knowledgeable heads of Phil de Glanville and Andy Robinson, the man whom the Kingsholm Shed loves to hate. Against them, Gloucester will pit Peter Glanville and Mark Mapletoft, the stand-off half whose name will have come up in discussion on Thursday among the England management, as much for his kicking ability as his running talents.

Goalkicking is a source of serious concern for England, who hope to name a training squad on Monday. So many clubs employ "foreigners" in that capacity, that any first-division Englishman who is finding the mark consistently is worthy of consideration. Look, for example, at Wasps and Gareth Rees, Bristol and Paul Burke, Harlequins and Michael Corcoran, Orrell and Frano Botica (until today), Richmond and Simon Mason — all of them qualified for other countries.

It is no surprise to see John Liley, of Leicester, heading the kicking chart in the first division with Jon Callard, of Bath, in close attendance, but next in line comes Will Carling, born-again kicker and would-be stand-off half but playing at centre in an unchanged Harlequins team at Bristol. "We are now moving into the serious phase of our season," Dick Best, their director of rugby, said.

Mind you, he thought that last week before his players scored 66 points against London Irish, who give league debuts today to Phil Drury and Ivan Mackenzie against a Sale side missing the injured Dewi Morris.

Were Harlequins to sustain their unbeaten run against Bristol it would be no great surprise. However, Wasps, the first division's other unbeaten side, are in the unaccustomed position of favourites to beat Leicester at Loftus Road tomorrow, when Andy Gomarsall and Austin Healey, two of the sparkiest scrum halves in the country, clash.

The top of the second division will take shape after Newcastle — who have now agreed terms with Halifax Blue Sox for John Bentley, the former England wing — have played Blackheath, and Richmond's visit to Bedford, for whom Martin Offiah's league debut is, once more, delayed. However, Bedford will field their latest signings, Scott Murray, the lock from Edinburgh Academicals and Junior Paramore, the former Western Samoa flanker.

Llanelli will not confirm their XV to play Swansea, the Welsh League leaders, until this morning in the hope that Botica's move from Orrell can be confirmed. Last night the delicate question of compensation was being discussed.

Sheasby has right heir style

David Hands meets a player with strong claims to succeed Dean Richards as the England No 8

Sheasby is hoping his move to Wasps will further his international ambitions

Dean Richards knows all about the troughs in representative sport as well as the peaks — he has, after all, been overlooked by England four times *en route* to becoming his country's most-capped No 8. Chris Sheasby, for his part, would love just one of the opportunities Richards has had and the meeting of the two players at Loftus Road tomorrow resounds with possibilities.

It is easy to attach a label to both men: Leicester's Richards, the product of another era, symbol of a slower, more formal international time, against the buzzing Wasp, Sheasby, boulevardier of university and London rugby. Yet there is less than four years between them and Sheasby has done his share of the back-row spadework while Richards has played his part in games of verve, pace and style.

Some may argue that Sheasby, at 29, has left it late to press his claim to a first international cap. Always there have been others ahead of him in the queue — Rodber, Ryan, Clarke, Ojomoh, Diprose — yet Sheasby would argue that the game is now catching up with him.

"I perceived myself, when I started, as much more of a southern hemisphere style of player and it upsets me to hear people saying we should strive to play as they do when I believe that I have always done so, yet have been criticised for it," he said.

For a decade Sheasby was a faithful Harlequin, yet during the summer he joined Wasps just when it seemed that Harlequins were poised to break the Bath-Leicester stranglehold. His most obvious motive was the chance to play alongside Lawrence Dallaglio, the Wasps captain, who has made England's No 7 shirt his own.

The second was the furore last March when he preferred to play sevens for an England team in Hong Kong and crossed swords with Dick Best, director of rugby for Harlequins, who had league commitments on the same weekend. The abbreviated game is important to Sheasby, a member of the 1993 England squad that won the inaugural World Cup tournament.

"I wasn't happy with what happened last March but nor was I at the way Harlequins were going into the professional era," he said. "Keith Richardson, the coach and a major player in the club's success last season, left but I also felt the group feeling we developed was drifting away. There had to be a balance between the old loyalties and the new transfer market.

"It wouldn't have taken much doing, just a few subtle brush strokes, but instead everyone was categorised when it came to contracts. There was no discussion, no negotiation over areas which might have been improved, the degree of individual freedom allowed — I felt the club was going back to the cosmopolitan days of five or six years ago, when internationals from all over the world would float in."

Wasps offered the flexibility Sheasby sought: a reasonable financial package to go with a two-year contract, plus an opportunity for the player to develop a career. Sheasby is maintaining his teaching links with Pangbourne, but he is looking towards the media and it is no coincidence that Chris Wright, chairman of Loftus Road plc, which runs both Wasps and Queens Park Rangers, is also the owner of the Chrysalis communications group.

The law changes relating to the scrum this season have helped him promote his international claims: he is blessed with power, pace off the mark and good hands, which he demonstrated with great clarity against Tony Diprose and Saracens a fortnight ago. But he must also convince the sceptics, those who remember his swashbuckling student days and have not recognised the change to serious career rugby player.

"I feel the ability I have could have been recognised earlier," Sheasby, who has played twice for England A, said. "If I only had a year left I might be bitter about it but I have three years and I hope the quality of skills and the style of play will benefit me. At Wasps I feel part of a team that is going places, that has the chance to win everything."

Public apathy underlines value of series

GERALD DAVIES

Rugby Commentary

In 1986 I had the great good fortune to spend a full week in France. It was the early winter and not the middle part of the year when it is fashionable for retired company directors to go there to write a blockbuster.

To be in France at any time is as fine a prospect as a man can wish, but this was no idle dawdle to admire the architecture and the churches. There was a game afoot — France were due to play New Zealand. There was much restless anticipation and animated chatter in the cafés and restaurants.

The drama was in two parts: the first international in Toulouse, the second in the newly-opened Beaujorie Stadium, in Nantes, the next Saturday. New Zealand, captained by Jock Hobbs, won the first ferocious encounter 19-7. In the return match, France, inspired by the uncompromising Jacques Fouroux, overturned the deficit to win an even more brutal contest 16-3. But for the violence on the pitch, it was a great rugby week: such exhilaration.

Let us move on a decade. The All Blacks were in France last year. Again it was a two-match duel. This time, in Toulouse, France won 22-15 so that the road leading to the second match in Paris was red-hot, a pitch of excitement. This time, in a magnificent display of attacking rugby, New Zealand won 37-12. In both cases there should have been a decider. Even so, the mini-series aroused curiosity and demanded attention. Both occasions provided rich rugby experiences.

So, where is all this leading? It is to consider the value and structure of international rugby. At present, there is a ferment of activity to arrange fixtures, to raise revenue to fund the game. In so doing, the game itself may be devalued.

For instance, Wales will play three international fixtures at Cardiff before Christmas. The first is against France on Wednesday evening. The tickets are easy to come by and the French have given their comment by not awarding caps for what they regard as a "friendly" match.

The public are a discerning bunch. They understand that, since there are plenty of matches, they can exercise their discretion. The ones they miss, they can watch on television. Furthermore, with matches against Australia and South Africa in the three spendthrift weeks before Christmas, their wallets will be stretched.

The crowd is also discriminating enough to know that nothing hangs on the outcome on Wednesday. If they want to see France play, Paris on February 15 is the place to be. There are the abundant delights of Paris, of course, but, more importantly, this will be a five nations' championship match. The fixture has a meaning, a mood and a context.

International matches should not be served up willy-nilly. Isolated fixtures are no proper substitute for a fully-structured list of inter-dependent games.

Lessons from the past might be useful. Curtailing the four home countries' fixtures to two, so that incoming touring parties played only Wales and Ireland or Scotland and England, but not all four, was a retrograde step. There remains the dissatisfaction of not knowing what the two excluded countries might have done. An integrated series inspires an accumulating interest, as the recent contests between the Springboks and the All Blacks demonstrated.

That Australia, in their negotiations with England, should be attempting to revive a grand-slam series of matches is to be welcomed. Were it to come about, it would be a pre-Christmas appetiser well worth savouring. Indeed, the old system of a touring team before Christmas, with some modifications in the number of three international fixtures, and a European championship afterwards might better suit the professional needs of the game.

Rugby, like cricket, values the tradition of the series. It ought to be maintained, not simply for sentimental reasons, but for very good sporting, promotional and financial reasons. Rugby needs not saturation but thrilling, vivid occasions.

COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Aston Villa v Manchester Utd
(2) Blackburn v Everton
(3) Leeds v Newcastle
(4) Liverpool v Chelsea
(5) Middlesbrough v Arsenal
(6) Nottingham Forest v West Ham
(7) Sheffield Wed v Derby
(8) Sunderland v Coventry

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	6	4	2	0	11	4	14
Man Utd	6	3	3	0	16	6	12
Chelsea	6	3	3	0	9	4	12
Newcastle	6	4	0	2	9	7	12
Sheff Wed	6	4	0	2	9	9	12
Middlesbrough	6	3	2	1	14	7	11
Arsenal	6	3	2	1	13	8	11
Aston Villa	6	3	2	1	8	5	11
Wimbledon	6	3	0	3	7	6	9
Derby	6	2	3	1	8	8	9
Tottenham	6	2	2	2	5	4	8
Leeds	6	2	1	3	6	11	7
Sunderland	6	1	3	2	5	4	6
Nottm Forest	6	1	3	2	8	11	6
Everton	6	1	2	3	5	9	5
Leicester	6	1	2	3	3	8	5
West Ham	6	1	2	3	4	10	5
Coventry	6	1	1	4	3	12	4
Southampton	6	0	2	4	5	9	2
Blackburn	6	0	1	5	4	10	1

Nationwide League
First division

(9) Bradford v Bolton
(10) Grimsby v Oxford Utd
(11) Manchester City v Birmingham
(12) Oldham v Barnsley
(13) Portsmouth v Norwich
(14) QPR v Swindon
(15) Reading v Crystal Palace
(16) Southend v Port Vale
(17) Tranmere v West Bromwich
(18) Wolverhampton v Sheffield Utd

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	7	5	1	1	17	9	16
Barnsley	6	5	0	1	14	6	15
Wolverhampton	7	4	2	1	11	6	14
Norwich	7	4	2	1	8	4	14
Tranmere	7	4	1	2	9	6	13
QPR	7	3	2	2	10	9	11
Stoke	7	3	2	2	10	12	11
Huddersfield	6	3	1	2	10	8	10
Crystal Palace	7	2	4	1	9	6	10
Swindon	7	3	1	3	6	8	10
Portsmouth	7	3	1	3	6	8	10
* Ipswich	7	2	3	2	13	11	9
Man City	7	3	0	4	8	9	9
West Brom	6	2	2	2	9	9	8
Birmingham	5	2	2	1	8	6	8
Sheff Utd	5	2	1	2	10	8	7
Oxford Utd	7	2	1	4	9	8	7
Reading	7	2	1	4	9	14	7
Port Vale	7	1	4	2	8	8	7
* Charlton	6	2	1	3	5	6	7
Bradford	7	2	0	5	4	10	6
Grimsby	7	1	2	4	8	16	5
Southend	7	1	2	4	7	14	5
Oldham	7	0	2	5	7	14	2

* not including last night's match

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Ashford; Baldock v Cheltenham; Cambridge C v Merthyr; Gloucester v Chelmsford, Gresley v Dorchester, Halesowen v Gravesend and Northfleet; Hastings v Burton; Nuneaton v Worcester; Salisbury v King's Lynn, Sittingbourne v Newport AFC; Sudbury v Crawley. Midland division: Bilston v Corby, Grantham v Evesham; Hinckley v Dudley T; Ilkeston v RC Warwick; Moor Green v Raunds, Paget v Redditch; Rothwell v Bedworth; Shepshed D v Stourbridge; Stafford v Solihull Boro. Tamworth v Sutton Coldfield. Southern division: Bashley v Cinderford, Erith and Belvedere v Fleet; Fisher London v Fareham; Forest Green v Waterlooville; Havant v Clevedon, Margate v Witney; Newport IoW v Dartford; Trowbridge v Buckingham T, Weston-super-Mare v Tonbridge Angels, Weymouth v Cirencester; Yate v St Leonards.

FA YOUTH CUP: Preliminary round: Frickley v Lincoln

Second division

(19) Blackpool v Shrewsbury
(20) Bournemouth v Notts County
(21) Bristol City v Walsall
(22) Bury v Luton
(23) Chesterfield v Burnley
(24) Gillingham v Rotherham
(25) Millwall v Crewe
(26) Plymouth v Bristol Rovers
(27) Watford v Peterborough
(28) Wrexham v Preston
(29) Wycombe v Brentford
(30) York v Stockport

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brentford	7	5	2	0	15	6	17
Watford	7	5	0	2	9	7	15
Chesterfield	7	5	0	2	6	4	15
Millwall	7	4	2	1	14	9	14
Bury	7	4	2	1	12	6	14
Crewe	7	4	1	2	10	7	13
Burnley	7	4	0	3	10	9	12
Shrewsbury	7	3	3	1	8	7	12
Plymouth	7	3	2	2	13	12	11
Blackpool	7	3	2	2	6	6	11
Wrexham	6	2	3	1	10	9	9
Bournemouth	7	3	0	4	8	9	9
Luton	7	3	0	4	7	12	9
York	7	2	2	3	8	9	8
Bristol Rovers	7	2	2	3	5	7	8
Bristol City	7	2	1	4	11	12	7
Peterborough	6	1	4	1	10	10	7
Preston	7	2	1	4	6	8	7.
Gillingham	7	2	1	4	6	9	7
Walsall	6	1	2	3	6	8	5
Notts County	6	1	2	3	5	7	5
Stockport	7	1	2	4	4	7	5
Wycombe	7	0	4	3	5	8	4
Rotherham	7	0	2	5	6	12	2

Third division

(31) Barnet v Exeter
(32) Brighton v Torquay
(33) Cambridge Utd v Scarborough
(34) Cardiff v Northampton
(35) Carlisle v Darlington
(36) Chester v Scunthorpe
(37) Doncaster v Swansea
(38) Fulham v Mansfield
(39) Hereford v Rochdale
(—) Hull v Hartlepool
(—) Leyton Orient v Colchester
(—) Wigan v Lincoln

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fulham	7	6	0	1	11	5	18
Wigan	7	4	2	1	14	8	14
Carlisle	7	4	2	1	9	4	14
Hull	7	3	4	0	7	4	13
Cardiff	7	4	1	2	6	5	13
Darlington	7	3	2	2	13	9	11
Chester	7	3	2	2	11	8	11
Hartlepool	7	3	2	2	9	8	11
Cambridge Utd	7	3	2	2	9	9	11
Torquay	7	3	2	2	8	5	11
Leyton Orient	7	3	2	2	6	3	11
Scarborough	7	2	4	1	10	8	10
Scunthorpe	7	3	1	3	8	9	10
Exeter	7	2	2	3	7	9	8
Lincoln	7	2	2	3	7	10	8
Brighton	7	2	1	4	7	12	7
Colchester	7	1	4	2	6	8	7
Barnet	7	1	4	2	5	4	7
Swansea	7	2	0	5	10	15	6
Northampton	7	1	3	3	8	8	6
Rochdale	7	1	3	3	5	7	6
Doncaster	7	1	2	4	6	9	5
Mansfield	7	0	4	3	2	8	4
Hereford	7	1	1	5	2	9	4

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Altrincham v Kidderminster
(—) Farnborough v Morecambe
(—) Gateshead v Dover
(—) Hayes v Halifax
(—) Kettering v Southport
(—) Macclesfield v Bath
(—) Slough v Hednesford
(—) Stalybridge v Northwich
(—) Stevenage v Bromsgrove
(—) Welling v Telford
(—) Woking v Rushden and Diamonds

PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora v Keith; Buckie v Clachnacuddin, Forres v Deveronvale; Fort William v Elgin, Peterhead v Cove; Rothes v Nairn Co, Wick v Huntly.

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(40) Aberdeen v Hibernian
(41) Celtic v Dunfermline
(42) Hearts v Motherwell
(43) Kilmarnock v Rangers
(44) Raith v Dundee Utd

First division

(45) Airdrie v Partick
(46) Clydebank v St Johnstone
(47) Dundee v East Fife
(48) St Mirren v Falkirk
(49) Stirling v Greenock Morton

Second division

(—) Berwick v Dumbarton
(—) Brechin v Hamilton
(—) Queen of the South v Ayr
(—) Stenhousemuir v Livingston
(—) Stranraer v Clyde

Third division

(—) Albion v Alloa
(—) Cowdenbeath v Ross County
(—) East Stirling v Montrose
(—) Forfar v Arbroath
(—) Caledonian Thistle v Queen's Park

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bromley v Yeading; Carshalton v Boreham Wood, Chertsey v Enfield; Dagenham and Redbridge v Staines; Dulwich v Heybridge; Grays v Aylesbury; Hendon v Bishop's Stortford; Hitchin v Harrow; Kingstonian v Yeovil; Oxford C v Purfleet; St Albans v Sutton U. First division: Abingdon T v Chesham; Aldershot v Whyteleafe, Barton v Leyton Pen; Basingstoke v Tooting and Mitcham; Berkhamsted v Molesey; Croydon v Wokingham, Hampton v Uxbridge, Maidenhead U v Billericay; Marlow v Canvey Is. Walton and Hersham v Bognor Regis; Worthing v Thame. Second division: Bedford v Met Police; Bracknell v Chalfont St Peter; Collier Row and Romford v Wivenhoe; Dorking v Windsor and Eton; Edgware v Leatherhead, Egham v Banstead; Leighton v Hemel Hempstead; Tilbury v Cheshunt; Ware v Horsham. Wembley v Barking; Witham v Hungerford. Third division: Braintree v Southall, Camberley v Lewes; Epsom and Ewell v Kingsbury; Flackwell Hth v Aveley; Harlow v Wingate and Finchley; Hertford v E Thurrock; Northwood v Hornchurch, Tring v Wealdstone

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Auckland v Winsford; Blyth Sp v Alfreton, Boston v Accrington; Buxton v Bamber Br; Gainsborough v Marine; Hyde v Barrow; Knowsley v Frickley; Lancaster v Spennymoor; Leek v Chorley; Runcorn v Emley; Witton v Guiseley. First division: Bradford PA v Gt Harwood; Curzon Ashton v Atherton LR; Droylsden v Farsley Celtic; Eastwood T v Warrington; Flixton v Lincoln U; Harrogate T v Ashton U, Leigh v Stocksbridge PS; Netherfield v Radcliffe, Whitley Bay v Congleton; Workington v Matlock; Worksop v Gretna.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Bangor; Briton Ferry v Connah's Quay; Caernarfon v Carmarthen; Cemaes Bay v Inter Cable-Tel; Cwmbran v Caersws (2.30), Ebbw Vale v Flint; Llansantffraid v Conwy (2.30); Newtown v Porthmadog; Ton Pentre v Holywell.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon v Ilford, Concord v Saffron Walden; East Ham v Gt Wakering; Ford v Burnham Rbls; Hullbridge Sp v Bowers; Southend Manor v Sawbridgeworth; Stansted v Eton Manor

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Amersham v Islington St Marys, Brimsdown v Beaconsfield SYCOB; Harefield v Hanwell; Haringey v Barkingside; St Margaretsbury v Ruislip Manor; Tottenham Omada v Brook House; Woodford v Hillingdon Boro.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash v Cobham; Bedfont v Chipstead; Cove v Walton Cas. Feltham v Hartley Wintney; Godalming and Guildford v Sandhurst; Merstham v Farnham; Raynes Park v Ashford; Viking Sp v Cranleigh, Westfield v Reading.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Whitehawk v Eastbourne T; Wick v Langney Sp

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Derry v Shamrock (7.30), Home Farm v Dundalk (7.30). Shield Competition: Southern section: Galway v Kilkenny (7.30).

SUN LIFE GOLD CUP: Section A: Coleraine v Portadown; Newry v Bangor. Section B: Crusaders v Ballymena; Larne v Ards. Section C: Carrick v Cliftonville; Omagh v Glentoran. Section D: Ballyclare v Linfield; Glenavon v Distillery

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Biggleswade v Toddington; Buckingham Ath v Langford; Hoddesdon v Bedford, Letchworth v Potters Bar: London Colney v Harpenden, Milton Keynes v Arlesey; Royston v Brache

SCREWFIX LEAGUE: Premier division: Backwell v Bideford, Barnstaple v Bridgwater; Bristol MF v Bridport; Calne v Chard; Elmore v Brislington; Odd Down v Tiverton; Paulton v Westbury; Taunton v Chippenham; Torrington v Mangotsfield.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington v BAT, Totton v Whitchurch; Aerostructures v Petersfield; Bournemouth v Ryde Sp; Brockenhurst v Gosport, Christchurch v Andover; Cowes Sp v Thatcham; Eastleigh v Bemerton Heath; Romsey v E Cowes; Wimborne v Portsmouth

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Woolwich, Corinthian v Whitstable, Faversham v Hythe; Folkestone Inv v Greenwich; Furness v Herne Bay; Lordswood v Canterbury; Ramsgate v Deal; Sheppey v Crockenhill; Slade Green v Chatham; Tunbridge Wells v Thamesmead

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Banbury v Almondsbury, Burnham v N Leigh; Carterton v Brackley; Endsleigh v Abingdon U. Highworth v Tuffley; Kintbury v Fairford, Lambourn Sp v Didcot. Shortwood v Bicester. Swindon Supermarine v Wantage.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ford v Desborough; Holbeach v M Blackstone, St Neots v Cogenhoe; Spalding v Newport Pagnell; Stamford v Potton; S and L Corby v Kempston; Stotfold v Boston; Wellingborough v Eynesbury; Wootton v Northampton Sp.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Bloxwich v Barwell; Boldmere SM v Pershore; Halesowen v Blakenhall, Hinckley Ath v W Mids Police, Knypersley v Bridgnorth; Rocester v Oldbury, Sandwell v Stapenhill; Shifnal v Pelsall, Stratford v Chasetown; Willenhall v Rushall.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Coleshill v Meir KA; Coventry Sph v Southam, Kenilworth v David Lloyd; Kings H v Boldmere; Richmond v Knowle; Shirley v Wellesbourne; W Mids Fire Service v Bilston

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich v Stourport; Brierley Hill v Wednesfield, Gornal v Stafford T, Ludlow v Tividale, Lye v Cradley, Walsall Wood v Malvern; Westfields v Darlaston; Wolverhampton C v Ettingshall; Wolverhampton U v Hill Top

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welf v Maltby MW, Belper v Liversedge, Brigg T v Ashfield, Hucknall v Hatfield Main; N Ferriby v Hallam; Ossett A v Pickering; Pontefract Cols v Arnold; Selby v Ossett T; Sheffield v Glasshoughton Welf; Thackley v Denaby.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Chester-le-Street v Easington; Crook v Stockton; Durham v Consett; Guisborough v Morpeth; Murton v Whickham; RTM Newcastle v Bedlington Terr; Seaham RS v Shildon; Tow Law v S Shields; W Auckland v Dunston Fed; Whitby v Billingham

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury T v Fakenham, Halstead v Great Yarmouth; Lowestoft v Newmarket; Warboys v Diss; Watton v Sudbury Res; Wisbech v Clacton; Wroxham v Harwich and Parkeston

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Burscough v Atherton Col; Darwen v Glossop NE; Eastwood H v St Helens; Holker OB v Newcastle T; Mossley v Clitheroe, Penrith v Chadderton, Prescot v Blackpool Rvrs; Rossendale v Maine Rd, Salford v Bootle, Trafford v Kidsgrove.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v Watford (11.0); Charlton v Portsmouth (11.0); Chelsea v Ipswich (11.0); Gillingham v Cambridge (10.45); Millwall v Tottenham (11.0), Norwich v QPR (11.0); Southend v Fulham (11.0); West Ham v Leyton Orient (11.0). Second division: Brentford v Barnet (11.0); Brighton v Bournemouth (11.0); Bristol C v Wycombe (11.0), Bristol R v Wimbledon (11.0); Colchester v Oxford Utd (12.0); Luton v Crystal Palace (11.0), Reading v Swindon (11.0); Southampton v Tottenham (11.0)

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Cholmeleians v Chigwellians, Foresters v Carthusians; Reptonians v Brentwoods. First division: Aldenhamians v Bradfieldians: Haberdashers v Salopians

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning v Hamptonians; Aloysians v Latymer; Kingsburians v Tenisonians; Meadonians v Ignatians, Vaughanians v Clapham. Senior first division: Enfield v Salvatorians; Danes v Phoenix; Manorians v Wilsonians, Suttonians v Westhamians, Tiffinians v Chertsey.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Crouch End v Carshalton; East Barnet OG v West Wickham; Norsemen v Nat West; O Esthameians v O Actonians; Polytechnic v O Parmiterians; South Bank v Civil Service. Second division: Barclays v Lensbury; Cuaco v Kew Assoc; O Latymerians v O Parkonians; O Lyonian v O Salesians. Third division: Alleyn OB v O Westminster Cits; Bank of England v Merton; Brentham v O Owens, Ibis v Reigate Priory; Midland v Broomfield. Southgate Oly v O Bromleians

SCHOOLS MATCHES (kick-off 10.30). Northern Merit: Trafford v Leeds. Inter-association: Under-15: Doncaster v Derby; Grimsby v Hull; Huddersfield v Spen Valley; Liverpool v Chester; Rotherham v Sheffield; St Helens v Wakefield. Sunderland v Coventry

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Beeston v Hull (Highfields, Nottingham, 1.30); Blueharts v Indian Gymkhana (Hitchin Boys School, 2.0); Bournville v Isca (King Edward's Girls School, Birmingham, 2.30), Bromley v Lewes (Priory Leisure Centre, Orpington, 12.0); Brooklands v Oxford Hawks (Brooklands SC, Sale, 2.0); City of Portsmouth v Oxford University (Alexandra Park, Portsmouth, 1.30); Crostyx v Sheffield (Chigwell, 1.0), Firebrands v Stourport (Gordano School, Portishead, 1.0). Gloucester City v Trojans (Plock Court, 1.30); Harleston Magpies v Warrington (Shotford Heath, 1.0), Edgbaston v St Albans (Birmingham University, Edgbaston, 12.30).

SCOTTISH LEAGUES: Men: League Cup: Ciba Kelburne v Watsonians; Insights Menzieshill v Western Grasshopper; Edinburgh University v D and T Gordonians, Inverleith v Grange. National League: Second division: Perthshire v Clydesdale; Stepps v Cornware Carnegie; Stronachs AGSFP v Harris. Pender Uddingston v Grove DHS. Women: National League: First division: Aberdeen Bon Accord v Western A. Edinburgh Ladies v Western Klick Photopoint, Menzieshill v Hyndland Grassport; Royal High Gymnasts v Bonagrass Grove.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby v Hemel Hempstead (7.30). Leicester v Crystal Palace (7.30); Birmingham v Sheffield (7.30). Thames Valley v Worthing (8.0).

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Courage Clubs Championship
First division

Bristol v Harlequins
Gloucester v Bath (2.15)
London Irish v Sale
Northampton v Orrell
West Hartlepool v Saracens

Second division

Bedford v Richmond
Coventry v Wakefield
London Scottish v Waterloo
Moseley v Nottingham
Newcastle v Blackheath
Rotherham v Rugby

Third division

Exeter v Harrogate
Fylde v Walsall
Havant v Clifton
Liverpool St Helens v Morley
Otley v Redruth
Reading v Lydney
Rosslyn Park v London Welsh
Wharfedale v Leeds

Fourth division north

Birmingham/Solihull v Stoke-on-Trent
Kendal v Manchester
Lichfield v Nuneaton
Preston Grasshoppers v Sheffield
Sandal v Aspatria
Stourbridge v Worcester
Winnington Park v Hereford

Fourth division south

Barking v Plymouth
Berry Hill v Newbury
Charlton Park v High Wycombe
Cheltenham v North Walsham
Henley v Camberley
Met Police v Askeans
Weston-super-Mare v Tabard

SOUTH WEST: First division: Brixham v Barnstaple, Camborne v Bridgwater, Launceston v Stroud, Matson v St Ives; Salisbury v Maidenhead, Torquay v Gloucester OB

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: First division: Basingstoke v Ruislip, Harlow v Southend; Old Colfeians v Guildford and Godalming; Old Mid-Whitgiftians v Esher; Staines v Thurrock; Sutton and Epsom v Sudbury; Wimbledon v Norwich

MIDLANDS: First division: Broad Street v Barkers Butts; Burton v Wolverhampton; Camp Hill v Whitchurch, Derby v Westleigh, Hinckley v Syston; Leamington v Stockwood Park; Leighton Buzzard v Stafford; Mansfield v Scunthorpe

NORTH: First division: Bradford and Bingley v Stockton, Bridlington v Macclesfield; Hull Ionians v Broughton Park; Sedgley Park v Tynedale, Widnes v New Brighton; West Park Bramhope v Wigton

Welsh League
First division

Bridgend v Neath (2.30)
Dunvant v Pontypridd (2.30)
Llanelli v Swansea (2.30)
Newbridge v Cardiff (2.30)
Treorchy v Caerphilly (2.30)

Second division

Abertillery v Abercynon (2.30)
Bonymaen v Cardiff Inst (2.30)
Cross Keys v Llandovery (2.30)
Maesteg v Aberavon (2.30)
Pontypool v Blackwood (2.30)
SW Police v Ystradgynlais (2.30)

THIRD DIVISION: Tredegar v Builth Wells, Rumney v Penarth; Tenby Utd v Llanharan; Merthyr v Narberth; Mountain Ash v Tondu; Pyle v Kenfig Hill.

SWALEC CUP: Second round: Aberavon Green Stars v St Josephs; Abercarn v Pembroke; Abercrave v Haverfordwest, Amman U v Cwmgors; Ammanford v Blaenavon; Beddau v Maesteg Quins, Bethesda v St Davids, Birchgrove v Penclawdd; Blaenau Gwent v Aberaeron; Bridgend Ath v Bargoed; Bridgend Sp v Monmouth; Briton Ferry v Milford Haven; Burry Port v Llandeilo; Bynea v Llangwm; Cardiff Medics v Dinas Powys; Cardigan v Nelson; Carmarthen Ath v Llantwit Fardre; Chepstow v Hirwaun; Croesyceiliog v Canton; Crynant v Brecon, Cwmbran v St Albans; Cwmgrach v Caldicot, Dolgellau v Baglan, Hartridge HSOB v Gilfach Goch. Hollybush v Fairwater. Lampeter Col v Gorseinon; Laugharne v Cwmavon; Llanelli Wanderers v Newcastle Emlyn, Llangennech v Treherbert; Morriston v Trebanos, Mumbles v Taibach. Nantyffyllon v Pentan; Neath Ath v Aberystwyth, New Tredegar v RTB Ebbw Vale; Old Illtydians v Cwmllynfell, Pencoed v Pontyclun; Penygraig v Cilfynydd; Pill Harr v Gowerton, Pontardawe v Pontycymmer; Pwllheli v Banwen; Risca v Gwernyfed; Ruthin v Rhyl and Dist; Senghenydd v Pontyberem; Taffs Well v Porthcawl. Talywain v Brynamman; Tonyrefail v Penygroes; Trynant v Brynmawr; Tycroes v Glais, Wattstown v Aberdare, Wrexham v Fleur-de-Lys. Ynysybwl v Cowbridge; Ystalafera v Bryncoch

Tennents Premiership
First division

Boroughmuir v Melrose
Hawick v Watsonians
Heriot's FP v Stirling County
Jed-Forest v Currie

Second division

Biggar v Kelso
Glasgow Hi. v Edinburgh Acads
Gala v Dundee HSFP
West of Scotland v Glasgow Acads

THIRD DIVISION: Kirkcaldy v Musselburgh, Peebles v Kilmarnock, Preston Lodge v Glasgow Southern, Stewart's Melville FP v Selkirk. Fourth division: Ayr v Haddington. Corstorphine v Grangemouth; Hillhead/Jordanhill v Glenrothes; Langholm v Gordonians

Irish inter-provincial championship

Munster v Connacht
(at Cork)
Ulster v Leinster
(at Ravenhill, Belfast)

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance county championship

10.30, third day of four, 104 overs minimum

DERBY: Derbyshire v Durham
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Glamorgan
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Kent
SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Nottinghamshire
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Middlesex
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Yorkshire
THE OVAL: Surrey v Worcestershire
HOVE: Sussex v Somerset
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Lancashire

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.30

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Beverley v Saddleworth, Egremont v Dudley Hill; Mayfield v Lock Lane, Oldham St Annes v Heworth, W Hull v Leigh MW; Wigan St Patricks v Woolston. First division: E Leeds v Askam, Eastmoor v Oulton, Leigh East v Wigan St Judes. Milford v Blackbrook, Thornhill v Barrow Is, Walney Central v Moldgreen. Second division: Eccles v Normanton, Featherstone Am v Hull Dockers, New Earswick v Milford, Ovenden v Redhill; Shaw Cross v Dewsbury Moor, Skirlaugh v York Acorn.

OTHER SPORT

EQUESTRIANISM: Blenheim Horse Trials

GOLF: Solheim Cup (St Pierre, Chepstow). Loch Lomond World Invitational

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Nottingham v Basingstoke (7.0), Sheffield v Manchester (7.0). Bracknell v Cardiff (6.0).

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Coventry v Eastbourne (7.30), Conference League: Swindon v Eastbourne (7.30)

TENNIS: Davis Cup: Euro-African zone: Group two: Great Britain v Egypt (Wimbledon) LTA satellite tournament (Birkenhead)

VOLLEYBALL: National League: Men: First division: Lewisham v Leeds (2.30), Ealing v Crofton (7.0). Whitefield v City of Stoke (7.0). Warwick v Tooting (6.30). Liverpool v Wessex (5.30).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

FA Carling Premiership

Tottenham v Leicester (4.0)

Nationwide League
First division

Stoke v Huddersfield (1.0)

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bray v Bohemians (3.15), Cork v Finn Harps (2.0). Shield Competition: Northern section: Monaghan v Athlone (2.30).

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE (3.0 unless stated): Premier division: Arsenal v Ilkeston Town (at Bromley FC, 2.0); Croydon v Everton (at Croydon Sports Arena, 2.0), Doncaster v Millwall (at Armthorpe Welf, 2.0), Southampton v Liverpool (at Totton, 2.0); Tranmere v Wembley (at Heswall FC, 2.0). Northern division: Aston Villa v Blyth Spartans, Bronte v Bradford, Notts County v Garswood St Helens, Stourport v Sheffield Wednesday; Wolverhampton v Huddersfield. Southern division: Brighton and Hove v Leyton Orient, Ipswich v Wimbledon; Oxford U v Three Bridges, Town and County v Langford; Whitehawk v Berkhamsted

RUGBY UNION

Courage Clubs Championship
First division

Wasps v Leicester
(at Loftus Road, 3.0)

Welsh League
First division

Ebbw Vale v Newport (2.30)

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Clifton v Hightown, Doncaster v Trojans; Ipswich v Sutton Canada Life, Slough v Balsam Leicester. First division: Bracknell v Sunderland Bedans. Canterbury v Bradford Swithenbank; Olton v Blueharts; Wimbledon v Chelmsford. Second division: Ealing v Woking; Loughborough v Sherwood; Old Loughtonians v Exmouth; St Albans v West Witney

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance county championship

10.30, final day of four

DERBY: Derbyshire v Durham
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Glamorgan
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Kent
SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Nottinghamshire
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Middlesex
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Yorkshire
THE OVAL: Surrey v Worcestershire
HOVE: Sussex v Somerset
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Lancashire

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Sheffield v Chester (5.30), Leopards v Newcastle (7.0). London v Manchester (7.15).

EQUESTRIANISM: Blenheim Horse Trials.

GOLF: Solheim Cup (St Pierre, Chepstow) Loch Lomond World Invitational (Glasgow)

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Ayr v Basingstoke (6.0), Newcastle v Sheffield (6.30); Manchester v Bracknell (6.0), Cardiff v Nottingham (6.0).

MOTOR SPORT: Auto Trader RAC touring car championship (Brands Hatch).

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Eastbourne v Swindon (3.30); Scottish Monarchs v Peterborough (6.30). Conference League: Buxton v Berwick (3.0), Linlithgow v Peterborough (2.30)

TENNIS: Davis Cup: Euro-African zone: Group two: Great Britain v Egypt (Wimbledon) LTA satellite tournament (Birkenhead).

VOLLEYBALL: Women's national league: First division: Salford v Leeds (2.15); Britannia Music City v Guildford (2.0); Essex v Birmingham (12.30), Sheffield v Orpington (1.0).

هكذا من الأصل

GOLF

Critics pin failure on new target

By Mel Webb

SOME people are never happy unless they are miserable. Players in the Loch Lomond World Invitational this week have been unable to complain about the tees, fairways, bunkers or greens — all are as near perfect as makes no difference. Yesterday, however, their relentless search for something to gripe about found a target. The pin placements, apparently, left something to be desired — and then some.

Players formed an orderly queue to weigh in with their fourpennyworth; the air was thick with hyperbole. "Disgusting," said some: "disgraceful," wailed others: "appalling," cried more. Never has so much hot air been spilt by so many over so little.

The main source of their complaints was that the powers-that-be on the PGA European Tour had laid some tough pin placements on this most spectacular of golf courses. That, given a robust breeze that swept round the tree-lined layout, plus the fact that the greens were, it was claimed, too hard to fly the ball at the flag, left the players frustrated and angry.

Peter O'Malley, of Australia, is a tough individual who is not normally prone to gratuitous grousing, so it was out of character when he launched into a critique of the flags. He implied that whoever had decided where to position them should be shot, or at the very least fired.

Others, such as Frank Nobilo, the personable New Zealander who has a winning way with words and the golf game to go with it, and Gordon Sherry, the lofty young Scot, had their say, too.

"I've played in 16 events in Europe this year, and something like this has happened in six or seven of them," Nobilo said, "but nothing ever seems to get done."

Sherry, the touring professional at Loch Lomond, said that he was "disappointed" with the pins, and not even Thomas Bjorn, whose 69 left him with a one-shot lead on 139, three under par, was entirely happy.

"The pins are really difficult, especially with the wind," he said. "If you start missing them on the wrong side, you're going to have some tough putts. I would like the greens to be a little softer."

It was easy to understand the players' unhappiness, but less easy to sympathise with them. They had a more than justified point when they sounded off about the putting surfaces in the British Masters at Collingtree Park three weeks ago. They were dreadful, with knobs on. This week, though, the greens are in AI condition. The phrase that comes irresistibly to mind is "put up or shut up".

CHRIS BACON

Sherry, who knows the Loch Lomond course, was "disappointed" with the pins

Meanwhile, Robert Allenby, who had four birdies and as many bogeys in his 71 to share second place with Jean Van de Velde, one ahead of Nick Faldo, Jamie Spence and Darren Clark, proved himself a contender whether the conditions are as awful as they were when he won the British Masters or as good as they are at Loch Lomond.

He did not much like the pins either. "Eight of them were just ridiculous," he said. Van de Velde loved them — he had a course-record 65, including only 11 putts on the back nine. "The greens were pure," he said, thus proving the perversity of professional golfers. It is amazing — give a man a decent score, and all is right with the world. Give him a 79, and the selfsame world is about to collapse around his ears.

Diego gives hotel the hands-on treatment

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

YOU read it here first — well, don't you always? Diego is going to come and play in the Premiership. In fact, Chelsea are on the very brink of signing him on a match-to-match basis. That, at any rate, is the talk in Buenos Aires, after Diego's recent dinner in London with his old pal, Gianluca Vialli, a *Serie A* player who has turned to English footy and Chelsea. In fact, the Argentinians are not too happy about it.

They are already furious with "English pirates", this being in any case a bit of national stereotyping. Diego is quoted as saying: "I'd like to play in the English championship, because it has now become as important as the Italian." Further credence is given to the story because Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea manager, is "a friend of Argentina".

The story remains ongoing despite Diego's visit to Chelsea last Sunday, in which he was turned away by a bouncer/jobsworth because his clothes did not meet the high standards they expect at Chelsea. Life, however, is a troublesome business, and that counts double for Diego. He is having psychotherapy in Spain under the Argentinian psychiatrist, Jacobo Zubcoff. "Drug-dependent people can be treated, but only on condition that the patient really wants to be cured," Zubcoff said. "Diego needs appropriate, personalised treatment."

Diego, in a rage after getting stuck in a lift, improvised on his personalised treatment by smashing up a hotel in Alicante this week. He broke the lift doors and then had a go at the furniture; the hotel agreed not to prosecute after Diego promised to cough up. Meanwhile, Diego's manager, Guillermo Coppola, said that Diego's playing future was unclear: "He has a contract with Boca Juniors, but he has also received offers from Japan and England."

Growing pains

Rugby union's deathbed conversion to modernism is all very well, but I wish they would remember the immutable law of Stephen Potter: "Gambits are for use, and not for overuse." The latest wacky message from Twickenham is headed: "RFU goes for Gilbert's balls", beneath which follows information to the effect that, yes, the Rugby Football Union has renewed its contract with James Gilbert, the rugby ball manufacturer. Highly amusing, gentlemen: no doubt you will grow out of it in time.

Jellyfish facts

Wimbledon Football Club take the week's jape award for their open letter to Gary Lineker, in which they called him a jellyfish. This is an old score dating back to Lineker's much-quoted remark that the only way to watch Wimbledon is on Ceefax. Fact: Lineker never actually said this. On February 14, 1995, after a painful match between Leeds United and Wimbledon, Lineker merely said that *the first half* of that match was so bad you might as well have watched it on Ceefax. But Wimbledon need their enemies — how would they survive if they did not believe that the world was against them?

Lineker: jellyfish attack

Base rate

Half a million bucks for a baseball? Not even a new one, but one that has been well-clobbered. This is the highest price paid for a chunk of sporting memorabilia, the previous record being $451,000 (£290,000), paid by the ice hockey player, Wayne Gretzky, for a baseball card depicting Honus Wagner. But now Michael Lasky has paid $500,000 for the ball that Eddie Murray struck to register his 500th home run. Danny Jones, sitting in the cheap seats when he caught it, has made a decent profit on his entrance money. In memorabilia circles, the consensus is that Lasky is barking. Donald Flanagan, of Christies, said that the ball was worth between $10,000 and $15,000.

Bog days

"Dear Mr Barnes: Having recently competed in the world bog-snorkelling championships in Wales, I was disappointed that there was no mention of this worthy event in *The Times* . . . As an alternative to the pages of coverage that other minority sports such as football and cricket receive, it may be a consideration for next year. Yours sincerely, Jonathan Maiden." Some may imagine that Mr Maiden is attempting a hoax, but bog-snorkelling does exist as a sport. However, I missed the event this year and have no details other than Mr Maiden's participation to pass on.

Breath stroke

Power booster: Jennie Marx writes to give me her recipe for garlic mayonnaise "certain to cause the opposition to collapse the scrum and avoid high tackles . . . for a single serving, two tablespoons of natural yogurt, two tablespoons of mayonnaise, two large cloves of garlic crushed, salt and pepper. Beat all the ingredients together, refrigerate for an hour. Spread generously over any meat or pasta". Mrs Marx thus wins herself a bottle of ambrosial Nicolas Feuillatte champagne plus, of course, *Le Bric* for her horse or guinea-pig.

HOCKEY: REVAMPED FORMAT AND RULE CHANGE SIGNAL LAUNCH OF NATIONAL LEAGUE SEASON

Beeston out to catch the eye as new look sweeps in

By Sydney Friskin

THE National League starts today with a new format and the official implementation of a worldwide decision to eliminate the offside rule as a temporary measure. In recent practice matches, clubs have already begun to enforce this latest change.

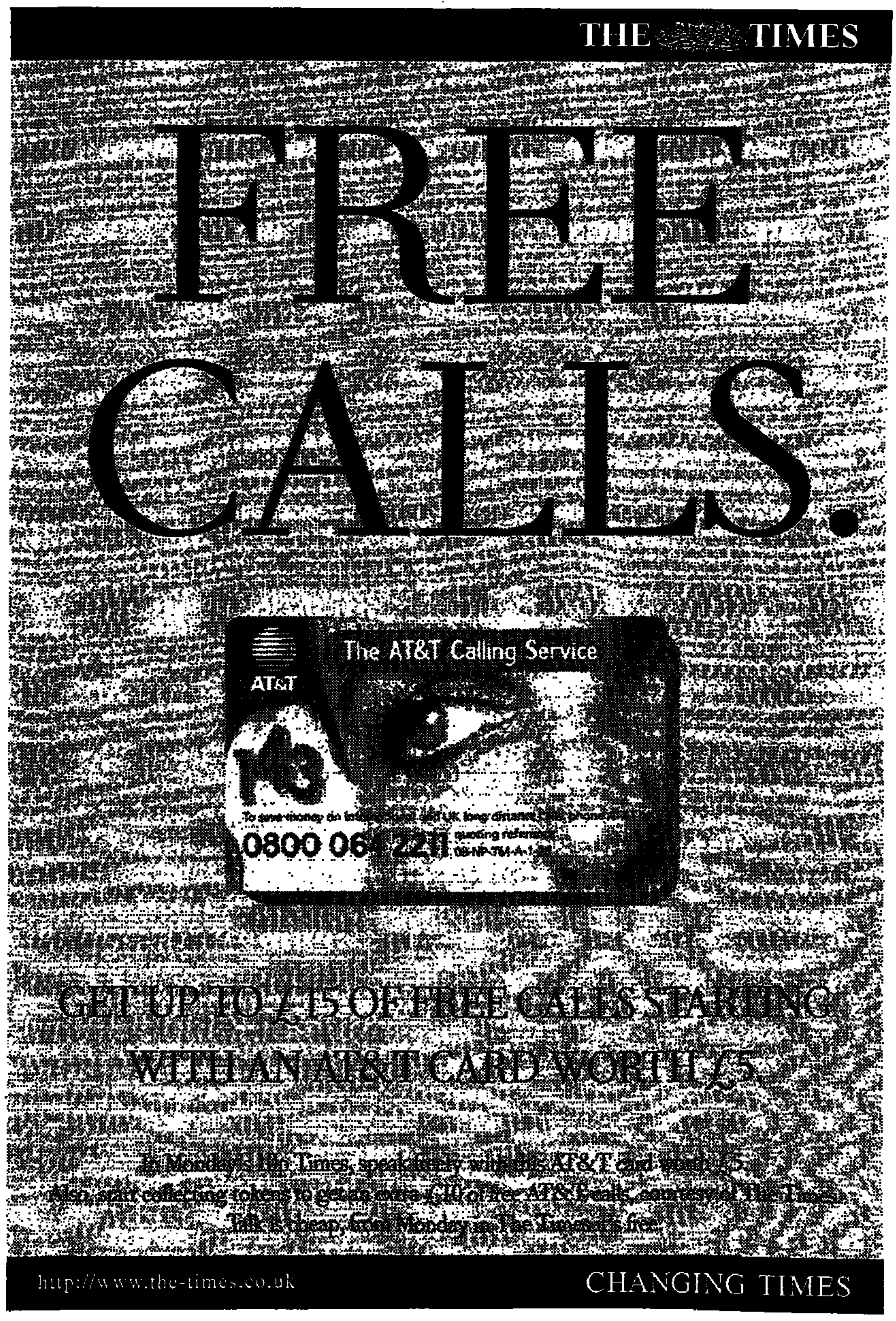
The league was originally restructured to allow 24 teams in the new-look first division. With the withdrawal of Slough, this number has been reduced and the aim is for a further cut to 20 within the next two seasons. The premier division, made up in its first season of 12 teams playing one another on a home and away basis, will start next weekend.

All eyes are on Beeston, winners last season of the second division, which has been scrapped in favour of the new format. They will be hoping to gain admission to the premier division from the first and their latest recruits include Danny Williams, from Southgate, Paul Sheardown and Richard Stamp, who joined them from Doncaster.

Gavin Featherstone returns to coach Oxford University, runners-up last season to Beeston. Oxford have lost four players from their squad of last year, but recent reinforcements include Nicholas Pirihi and John MacCormick, both from New Zealand. The new captain, Matthew Barr, is also a New Zealander.

When Sheardown takes the field for Beeston today, he will be playing against his former club, Hull, who are bound to miss his services in the forward line. Indian Gymkhana, visiting Bluehearts, have snapped up several players from Slough.

Bournville, relegated from the first division last season, have several new faces in the side for the trip to Isca. These include Chris Kent, from Indian Gymkhana, James Clement, Chris Graham and Richard McCollum, all formerly with Harborne.



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CHANGING TIMES

TENNIS: DAVIS CUP PROMOTION BECKONS AFTER TWIN TRIUMPH OVER EGYPT

Henman and Rusedski put Britain on course

By Alix Ramsay

WIMBLEDON in September seldom inspires memories of the great moments of British tennis, but, on a cold, drab day on No 1 Court, Great Britain took a decisive step towards promotion in the Davis Cup. Straight-sets wins for Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski in the match against Egypt put Britain within one match of promotion from group two of the Euro-African zone and a chance to move further up the ladder next year.

In theory, yesterday's opening singles rubbers should have been simple and straightforward. On ranking alone, Henman and Rusedski are head and shoulders above the best that Egypt has to offer. Both men have traded blows with the best in the world on the world's most famous courts. By contrast, Tamer el Sawy, the top Egypt player, is still earning his corn on the challenger circuit.

RESULTS

SINGLES

Great Britain players named first

G Rusedski bt T el Sawy 6-2, 6-4, 7-5

T Henman bt A Ghoneim 6-0, 6-4, 7-5

SCHEDULE: Today: (1 45pm start) N Broad and M Petchey v el Sawy and Ghoneim Tomorrow (11am): Henman v el Sawy; Rusedski v Ghoneim.

Rusedski's record for Britain in Davis Cup tennis is unblemished — played six, won six — but, back on the daily grind of the ATP tour, this has not been his most profitable year. Putting himself within a few points of beating the top players, he has failed to take his opportunities. Against el Sawy yesterday, he was determined to take the initiative from the start.

However, the match was suspended for 45 minutes after four games, when a spectator was taken ill in the north stand and had to receive treatment from the paramedics. With Rusedski's powers of concentration in doubt, such interruptions do little for the confidence. But, serving a total of 16 aces, he was never in trouble. After an hour and 36 minutes of play, it was all over 6-2, 6-4, 7-5.

Rusedski: perfect record

With Egypt's No 1 safely dispatched, Henman's task against Amr Ghoneim, the world No 522, seemed easy. Until the second point, that was. As he moved to return the Ghoneim service. "I tried to move one way and my legs were having none of it," Henman said. Ending up sprawled on the grass, the greatest fear for David Lloyd, the Britain captain, was that he had aggravated the groin strain that has kept him out of action for the past two weeks.

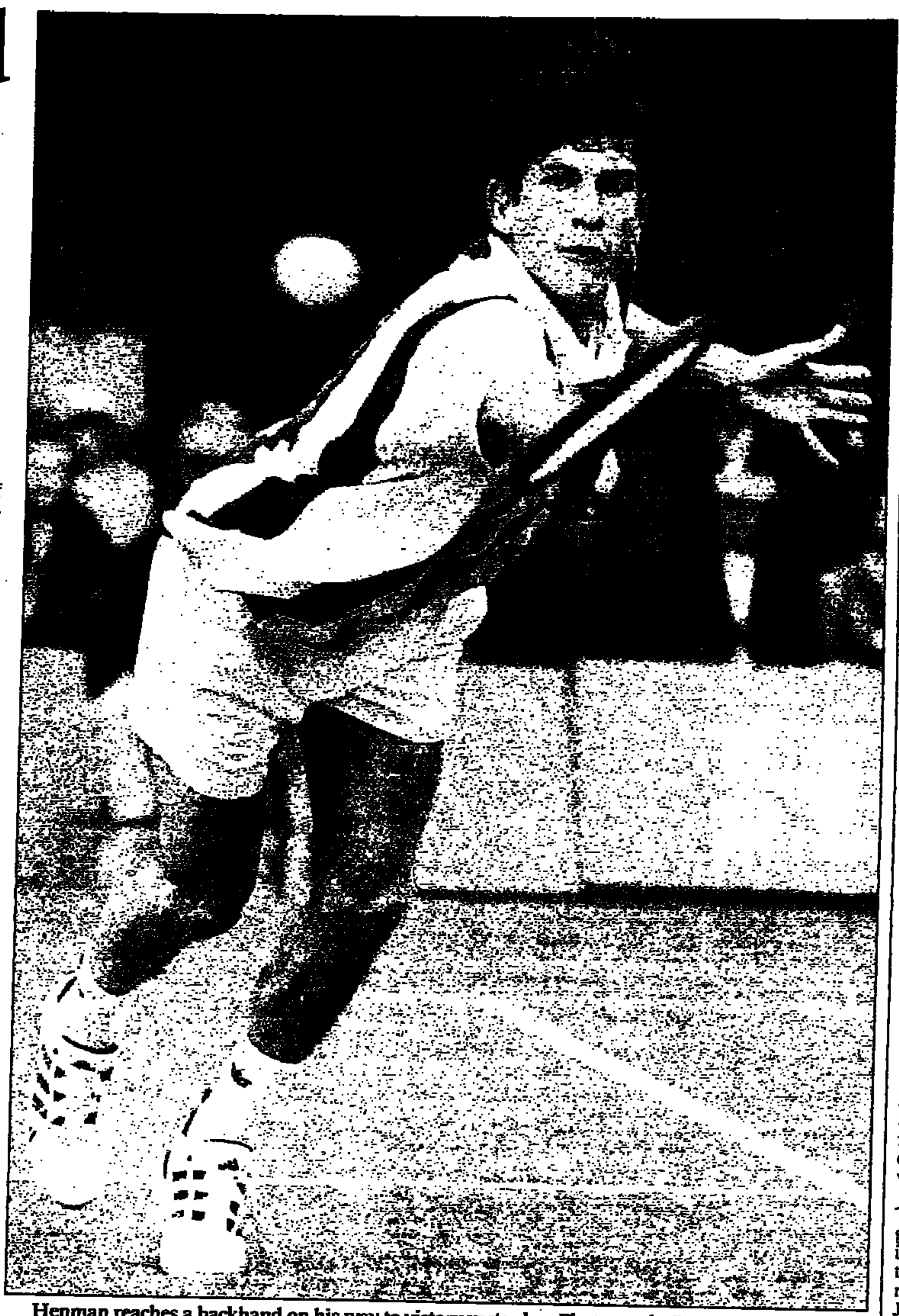
In the end the fears were unfounded and Henman raced away with the first set in 20 minutes without dropping a game. But that was when the problems really started. Ghoneim gradually grew in confidence while Henman could not keep his mind on the job. By the third set the nerves were jangling on the British bench, as Ghoneim broke for a 5-3 lead and held a point to take the set.

"I felt the match was under control," Henman said, "but that is when you can be vulnerable. When you're ahead in a match, you have to keep pushing on, you have to keep putting the nails in the coffin. And he also started to play better."

But you do not get to be No 33 in the world by letting matches slip through your fingers. Henman broke back immediately, pinning Ghoneim down with some dipping returns that caught his advancing opponent unawares. Back on level terms at 5-5, normal service was resumed and Henman broke again to leave himself the relatively simple task of serving for the match to win 6-0, 6-4, 7-5.

Maybe the result had not been quite as easy as it had looked on paper, but two wins on the board puts Britain in the driving seat with the chance to put the tie beyond doubt today, when Neil Broad and Mark Petchey play el Sawy and Ghoneim in the doubles.

"We knew when we played against Monaco last year that we had a good team, but we needed to prove it," Henman said. "Now that we have three good wins under our belts, and we are 2-0 up here, we are very confident. We have been clear favourites in every match so far and sometimes it is a little embarrassing to be playing in division two with a team of this standard. It is very important for us to get out of this group and back up where we belong."



Henman reaches a backhand on his way to victory yesterday. Photograph: Gary Prior/Allsport

Gaudenzi gives Italy advantage

By Our Sports Staff

ITALY and Sweden grasped the early initiative by winning the opening singles in their respective Davis Cup semi-finals against France and the Czech Republic yesterday. In Nantes, Andrea Gaudenzi rallied from a set down to beat Cedric Pioline 5-7, 6-1, 7-6, 6-3 while, in Prague, Thomas Enqvist defeated Petr Korda in straight sets.

Having beaten Denmark and Germany 5-0, France started warm favourites against Italy on the fast Greenset surface in Nantes. The Italians had won their earlier rounds on the slow clay courts in Rome.

After dropping the first set, Gaudenzi raced into a 4-0 lead in the second and took it 6-1 to level the match. The Italian made another good start in the third, leading 3-0, but Pioline fought back to force the tie-break, only to lose it 7-4. Service breaks proliferated in the fourth set and, at 3-5, Pioline dropped his for the ninth, and last, time in the match. In the second singles, Arnaud Boetsch, of France, was due to play Renzo Furlan.

On an indoor carpet surface in Prague, Enqvist's powerful service proved the decisive factor against Korda, who double faulted frequently and dropped his service in the fifth game to lose the first set 6-4. Korda put Enqvist under greater pressure in the second set and enjoyed six break points. However, the Swede managed to hold service and went on to win the set 6-3.

A fluctuating third set went to a tie-break but Korda's inability to take break points — he squandered a further four — saw Enqvist take it 11-9 to complete a 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 victory.

In the second singles match, Stefan Edberg was due to play Daniel Vacek. Edberg suffered from inflammation of the Achilles tendon during the recent US Open but was passed fit to play as Sweden attempted to avoid their second successive semi-final exit. Twelve months ago, the Swedes went out to the United States.

Coincidentally, it was the Czech Republic who knocked the United States out this year, the Americans having played without their leading four players in their quarter-final defeat, in Prague, in April.

EQUESTRIANISM

King takes lead after confident dressage

By Jenny MacArthur

MARY KING, the favourite to win the Blenheim Vauxhall Monterey International Horse Trials, rode serenely into the lead on the eight-year-old King Solomon after a confident dressage test yesterday that has given them a 1.6-point lead over Pippa Funnell, the winner last year, on Anne Burnet's The Tourmaline Rose.

There is little room for complacency, however. Three horses — including Mark Todd on his Gatcombe winner, Vambi Charbonière — are lying less than four points behind in joint-third place and only ten points separate the top 14 riders. With the cross-country course today reckoned to be the most demanding there has been at Blenheim, the dressage scores may quickly be put in perspective.

King, the winner of every significant British event in the past month, including the Burghley Horse Trials, will not be easy to dislodge. King Solomon has barely put a foot wrong, finishing first and second in his two previous three-day events — Compiègne and Le Lion d'Angers — and finishing second behind his stablemate King William in the British Open last month.

"The course is well within his limits," King said, "and he has never run out at a corner fence yet — but there's always a first time." She has the additional advantage of going last — horses are running in reverse order of merit — which means she can revise her route if any of the fences she is concerned about, particularly Fence 9 in the main arena and the double of corners at 20, are not jumping well.

Funnell is not so confident. The Tourmaline Rose, a seven-year-old grey mare, had a run-out at the infamous Fence 5 at Gatcombe and then spooked and refused to go near the fence. At Bramham in June, Funnell had to pull her up three fences from the end because the mare, who is kept with her owner in between events, was "cooked".

The fitness problem is unlikely to recur. Funnell has had the mare at home in the three weeks before Blenheim and has got her much leaner than she was at Bramham. The horse's ability has never been in doubt. Funnell's husband, William, the international showjumper, has already tried to pinch her because of her "unbelievable" jump. "She'll either go brilliantly tomorrow or the reverse," Funnell said.

Todd will be quick to capitalise on any mistakes. The nine-year-old Vambi Charbonière has not been the easiest of horses — he fell at Brigstock at the beginning of the season — but he is now going sweetly for the dual Olympic champion and comes to Blenheim at the top of his form after his convincing win at Gatcombe three weeks ago.

Results, page 46

IN BRIEF

Shah keeps Sri Lanka waiting for victory

THE oldest member of the Zimbabwe team, 37-year-old left-hander Ali Shah, scored his maiden Test half-century to frustrate Sri Lankan hopes of winning the second Test inside three days yesterday. Shah, going in with Zimbabwe nine for one after starting their second innings 209 runs behind, battled to a dogged, unbeaten 62 in 287 minutes to help his side end the day on 162 for six.

Zimbabwe still need a further 47 runs to avoid an innings defeat after Sri Lanka had earlier taken their first innings score to 350 for eight declared, with Hashan Tillekeratne recording a personal Test best of 126 not out.

☐ Allan Border, the former Australia captain, and the feared new-ball attack of the Eighties, Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson, will reunite to face the West Indians in a limited-overs match. Michael Holding is also expected to line up against his countrymen in the traditional opening tour match against the Australian Cricket Board XI in Perth on November 4.

Flying start

Tennis: Britain's Under-21 women's team made a successful start in their defence of the Maureen Connolly Trophy against the United States in Austin, Texas, yesterday. They ended the first of three days of competition 3-1 up, with victories from Jo Ward and Mandy Wright, and from Claire Taylor and Lizzie Jelfs in the doubles. Britain needs to win only three further rubbers for victory.

Lee well placed

Golf: Robert Lee goes into the final round of the Eulen Open Galea in Bilbao, Spain, today chasing his second European Challenge Tour win of the season. Lee, from London, had a third round of 71 for a five-under-par total of 211, the same as José Sota, a 23-year-old cousin of the Ryder Cup captain, Severiano Ballesteros. They are one shot behind the leader, Stephen Scahill, of Australia.

Race in doubt

Speedway: Promoters are threatening to drop the British grand prix from the international calendar next year because, under present arrangements, they do not receive any of the sponsorship money generated by the event to offset the expense of organising it. Terry Russell, the British Speedway Promoters' Association chairman, said: "We are considering whether to stage it or not."

Final four

Tennis: Chris Wilkinson, the No 1 seed from Hampshire, will face Federico Rovia, of Sweden, in the semi-final of the LTA Autumn Satellite tournament at the Wirral today. Nick Weal, also of Hampshire, meets Andrew Richardson, of Lincolnshire, to decide the other finalist.

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CRICKET: SUPREME INNINGS BY WEST INDIAN REINFORCES LEICESTERSHIRE'S STRANGLEHOLD ON COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Title deeds of Simmons supply proof of tenure

By Alan Lee, cricket correspondent

LEICESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire, with two first-innings wickets in hand, lead Middlesex by 191 runs

OFFICIAL endorsement must wait, possibly until tomorrow, but the county championship was effectively decided yesterday. Leicestershire, playing the cricket of a supremely confident side, utterly dominated Middlesex and cannot now be caught as long as they avoid what seems a barely conceivable defeat.

Appropriately, on a day that brought a large and euphoric crowd to Grace Road, Phil Simmons was the central figure. Simmons, powerful, wholehearted and genuine, has been the outstanding county player of the year and Leicester has embraced him with an idolatry seldom afforded to imports. Yesterday he was their enforcer.

Middlesex had begun the day optimistic of making their total of 190 seem competitive. Two wickets in the first half-hour lent weight to the view. But a stand of 138 between a steely James Whitaker, the captain, and Aftab Habib put the leaders in front and Simmons then bestrode the remainder of a blustery day, finishing five short of his third century inside a week.

That the talking points were not confined to Leicestershire's position owes everything to Mike Gatting. Few cricketers have the stature and the bloody-mindedness to attract headlines in such a situation but it was meat and drink to Gatting, who began the day keeping wicket and ended it justifying some dubious instructions to the man who resumed in the gloves, Keith Brown.

Gatting was infringing no laws in stationing Brown two feet outside leg stump while Philip Tufnell bowled 19 overs of left-arm spin from over the wicket. It was, however, as he later confessed, a stultifyingly negative tactic, one that the Test and County Cricket Board must now rouse itself to prohibit.

The present laws do, however, prevent any team from using a substitute as wicketkeeper, so while Brown spent the morning having treatment on a dislocated finger, Gatting stepped into the breach. He has done the job before, and made some capable takes, but his dropping of Whitaker, when he was on 33 and the total 109, was a pivotal moment of the day. Worse was the fact that the chance was carrying to first slip, where the substitute fielder was David Nash, the England Under-19 wicketkeeper.

An exacting spell from Johnson had revived Middlesex's interest in the game. He dismissed a tentative Smith, leg-before, before Fay claimed Maddy with one that kept low. Whitaker, however, bristled with purpose and, before lunch, he had hooked Fraser for six over long leg and reached 50 with a thick-edged four off a visibly embittered Fay.

The car park gates were now closed and the food queues in The Meet made the place seem almost festive. The crowd swelled in size and noise through the afternoon, revelling in Whitaker's pugnacity and Habib's precocious talent. Johnson returned to divide them but Whitaker was a casualty of Tufnell's line of attack, sweeping so violently that his foot slipped and dislodged a bail.

When Nixon fell, a solitary wicket for the caricatured world-weariness of Fraser, Leicestershire were only 63 ahead. But Millns joined Simmons in a rumbustious stand of 90 that featured two memorably furious shovel shots for six by the Trinidadian. Two wickets as the light faded could not redeem the day for Middlesex and Simmons was content to call a halt 16 overs early. He knows it is now a matter of time.

TOP OF TABLE

	P	W	L	D	Bt	Bl	Pts
Leicestershire	16	9	1	6	57	61	280
Kent	16	9	1	6	47	52	261
Surrey	16	8	1	7	49	61	259

Points include bonus points from current round of matches

DAVID JONES

Gatting spills a chance offered by Whitaker, the Leicestershire captain, a miss that was to prove costly for Middlesex

Surrey spirit falls in Oval gloom

By Michael Henderson

THE OVAL (second day of four: Surrey won toss): Worcestershire have scored 134 for three wickets against Surrey

ONLY one session of play was possible yesterday and, in the 40 overs that they bowled, Surrey picked up a single bonus point. It was an unsatisfactory day all round, which began at 1.10pm after the umpires deemed the square wet, and ended at tea when the light became impossible for play to resume.

How a Test-match square can be too wet for play to start on time, despite abundant covering, is something that Surrey will undoubtedly investigate. The first day was lost to heavy rain, which soaked the outfield, but there was surely no excuse for the game not to start at 10.30 yesterday morning.

When it did start, 32 overs late, Surrey gained an immediate success when Benjamin, opening the bowling in place of Lewis, a victim of flu, penetrated Weston's flimsy defence. Curtis walked into one from Bicknell, who bowled 11 searching overs from the Pavilion End, and Hick, who never settled, drove Julian to extra cover.

Hick, poor chap, looks a broken man. He took his leave on a damp afternoon that might have summarised his season, and he clearly has much to sort out before he resumes next April. David Houghton, the Worcestershire coach, might have imagined that he was fighting the player's corner when he urged England to pay Hick a retainer this winter, but, at the age of 30, Hick, who has made 90 first-class hundreds, faces an uncertain future.

In 22 overs together, before the light went, Moody and Spiring added 102 to frustrate the bowlers. Moody offered a return chance to Adam Hollioake on 56, but otherwise appeared comfortable, piercing the field with some fine, attacking strokes.

Surrey have enjoyed a decent summer, but this looks like being a dispiriting way for the season to end. Players think about all sorts of things at this time of year and Surrey's minds might go back to the last day of the game at the Oval against Derbyshire, in the first week of June, when Dominic Cork batted out the day and Colin Wells made light of a leg injury to help him to gain a draw.

When the groundstaff finally covered the pitch last night, mooching around with hands in pockets like men who have far better things to do, there were three well-wrapped-up spectators sitting in the public stands. Then even they realised that there was no possibility of a resumption, so they slipped away.

Do they love their cricket so dearly, or had they nowhere else to go? It was a poignant sight.

Smith shines in gloom

HOPES that Nottinghamshire might salvage success at the end of a grim season ended yesterday when their attack was put to the sword by Robin Smith on a rain-affected day at Southampton. The Hampshire captain's 161 helped his side to a declaration at 513 for four wickets.

Nottinghamshire did frustrate Laney's quest for a third century in successive matches, but since he perished three runs short it was of little consolation. After Smith fell, Kendall picked up the tempo, his 103 containing 21 fours.

Yorkshire also gorged on an under-strength attack, reaching 478 against Northamptonshire thanks to Michael Vaughan equalling his career best of 183.

Shane Lee's fifth century of the season helped Somerset to a first-innings lead of 213 over Sussex at Hove.

Kent prize fight runs out of steam

By Simon Wilde

BRISTOL (second day of four): Kent, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 66 runs behind Gloucestershire

THE life left in Kent's championship challenge predictably and with little ceremony disappeared under pale skies at Bristol yesterday. Shortly after 3.15pm, when Leicestershire put themselves mathematically out of reach, one of the few spectators on the ground drifted past the visitors' dressing-room and informed them of the bad news.

Had things gone better, Kent would have ferried coachloads of supporters to the West Country this weekend but it was apparent from proceedings on Thursday that the coaches would be staying in the depot.

"We lost it on Thursday, batting badly on our biggest day of the season," Daryl Foster, the coach, said yesterday, "but we have done well, winning nine and losing only one. There is a lot of luck in these things. I thought it might not work out for us a few weeks back when rain stopped us winning at Derby while, 20 miles away, Leicestershire were able to finish their game."

Kent performed as though hung over from Thursday, allowing Gloucestershire a significant first-innings lead of 87 and losing Fleming in eight overs before stumps. At one stage Gloucestershire were only 13 runs behind with seven wickets standing.

But soon after that, at about the time the title slipped out of reach, Kent fought back strongly. Patel removed the limpet-like Trainor, who had invested four hours in 48, to a leg-side stumping and Lynch's smash-and-grab half-century was stopped in its tracks by a fine throw from Ward at mid-off.

Alleyne and Russell soon followed but the Gloucestershire tail wagged vigorously before it was devoured by McCague and Headley, who, with Ealham, had taken much of the morning locating the right length. McCague finished with three wickets, Headley with four, taking their respective tallies for the season to 76 and 50, both personal bests.

"Martin has been outstanding and I think he is unlucky not to be touring," Foster said.

Durham look to save best for last

By Pat Gibson

DERBY (second day of four): Durham, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 92 runs ahead of Derbyshire

STEWART HUTTON, one of the few survivors from Durham's days in the Minor Counties, showed, by frustrating Derbyshire for more than four hours just as they were thinking that they had nothing to beat, that five traumatic years of championship cricket have not broken his spirit.

By the time that bad light brought an abrupt end to a day of dazzling sunshine, he was within 15 runs of his second championship century of the season and, with David Cox joining him in an unbroken sixth-wicket stand of 68, Derbyshire, title contenders a week ago, were beginning to look the more ragged of the two.

It seemed to be plain sailing for Derbyshire when they resumed only six runs behind with eight wickets in hand, but Adams, who had made 81 off only 60 balls with a six and 14 fours, was caught behind in the first over and Jones, who had shared in a third-wicket partnership of 93 in 16 overs, played on.

O'Gorman and Wells were victims of the increasingly uneven bounce of a newly-laid pitch, but that only strengthened Derbyshire's belief that a first-innings lead of 114 would be more than enough for them to wrap up the game inside two days.

Morris did nothing to dissuade them by steering a short ball from Malcolm straight to gully to complete his wretched season with 410 runs at an average of 14 and, when Roseberry, his fellow sufferer, was caught at second slip, he bowed out with 457 runs at 16.

The home-grown boys, though, were made of sterner stuff. It was hard to believe that Hutton had passed 50 only once before this season, when he made 143 against Gloucestershire in June.

Daley and Collingwood joined him in successive stands of 71 and 66, and finally Cox, a plasterer by trade who is revelling in his exalted position at the top of the Durham batting averages, plundered 50 off 49 balls with eight fours. If they can add another 50 or so today, Durham's first championship victory of the season is not out of the question.

Gooch closes on Hutton's mark

By Jack Bailey

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Glamorgan, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 312 runs behind Essex

AS IF to confirm that playing county cricket in the third week in September is not in the natural order of things, what play there was took place in very poor light between bouts of near darkness. Time enough, though, for Graham Gooch to take his score from 62 to 170 before leaving the scene to accompany his father to hospital at lunchtime. There was also time for Stuart Law to dazzle with strokeplay that brought him 13 fours in an innings of 66, scored from 56 balls.

Once these masters had disappeared, the true nature of conditions was exposed. In 13 overs, Essex lost their last six wickets for 21 runs, mainly to the line, length and occasional movement of the medium pace of Adrian Dale. In the circumstances, Glamorgan have done reasonably well to reduce the deficit by 55 runs. They have lost two wickets, to the lively Cowan, although just how Hussain clung on to a hard, high slash from James was one of the day's minor miracles.

In the main, then, just another Gooch and Law day. This was Gooch's 128th century, his eighth of the season and it left him one shy of Sir Leonard Hutton's career tally. Yesterday he demonstrated that he has lost none of his powers.

Giles pushes all-round claims

By Ivo Tennant

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Lancashire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 105 runs behind Warwickshire

ASHLEY GILES is not merely a spin bowler considered sufficiently promising to be taken on the England A tour this winter. He can bat a bit, too. His unbeaten century yesterday, which was the first of his career, was also his fourth score of more than 50 in Warwickshire's past five championship matches.

His previous highest first-class score was 85. His century, mostly made in partnership with Neil Smith, came off 133 balls and included 16 fours and a six. Their stand of 163 was a record for Warwickshire's eighth wicket against Lancashire. Giles has now scored 600 runs and taken 60 wickets this season.

Giles is 23. The Warwickshire second XI have won their championship for the first time since 1979 and their under-19 side were victorious at the NAYC Oxford and Cambridge Festival. They need not be too despondent over not retaining the county championship pennant.

Giles and Smith, whose 74 included 12 fours, enabled Warwickshire to make a total of 386. In their other roles, they then showed that the pitch is starting to take some spin. Yet Crawley made 73 off 109 balls, ensuring, as did Titchard, Lloyd and Fairbrother, that his side batted soundly in response.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Derbyshire v Durham

DERBY (second day of four): Durham, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 92 runs ahead of Derbyshire

DURHAM: First Innings 142 (P A J DeFreitas 5 for 60)

Second Innings

S Hutton not out	85
J E Morris c O'Gorman b Malcolm	0
J A Daley b Harris	33
M A Roseberry c Adams b Dean	1
P D Collingwood c Krikken b Malcolm	34
†D G C Ligertwood c Krikken b Malcolm	0
D M Cox not out	51
Extras (w 2)	2
Total (5 wkts)	208

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-72, 3-73, 4-138, 5-138

BOWLING: Malcolm 18-2-80-3; DeFreitas 9-2-25-0; Wells 15-5-40-0; Harris 14.5-5-48-1; Dean 8-4-13-1.

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings

K J Barnett c Ligertwood b Betts	16
A S Rollins lbw b Betts	4
C J Adams c Ligertwood b Betts	91
*D M Jones b Saggers	77
T J G O'Gorman lbw b Betts	11
C M Wells lbw b Saggers	19
†K M Krikken not out	29
P A J DeFreitas b Cox	10
A J Harris lbw b Brown	1
K J Dean c Collingwood b Brown	0
D E Malcolm run out	1
Extras (lb 3, w 4)	7
Total (57 overs)	258

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-47, 3-140, 4-180, 5-211, 6-216, 7-245, 8-246, 9-246

BOWLING: Brown 14-3-56-2; Betts 17-1-69-4; Walker 11-4-46-0; Saggers 9-0-60-2; Cox 6-1-23-1

Bonus points: Derbyshire 6 Durham 4

Umpires: J C Balderstone and J H Harris

Essex v Glamorgan

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Glamorgan, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 312 runs behind Essex

ESSEX: First Innings

G A Gooch retired out	170
A P Grayson c Shaw b Watkin	12
N Hussain c Hemp b Watkin	68
S G Law b Parkin	66
*P J Prichard c Shaw b Dale	14
R C Irani c Shaw b Dale	10
†R J Rollins c Shaw b Watkin	0
M C Ilott c Cosker b Dale	5
A P Cowan lbw b Dale	5
P M Such not out	1
S J W Andrew c Maynard b Watkin	0
Extras (lb 6, nb 10)	16
Total (92.5 overs)	367

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-33, 2-182, 3-280, 4-346, 5-346, 6-360, 7-361, 8-366, 9-367

BOWLING: Watkin 22.5-6-64-4; Parkin 19-2-59-1; Hemp 2-0-28-0; Dale 16-4-52-4; Croft 23-3-102-0; Cosker 10-0-56-0.

GLAMORGAN: First Innings

S P James c Hussain b Cowan	12
H Morris c Andrew b Cowan	10
D L Hemp not out	11
*M P Maynard not out	22
Total (2 wkts, 14.5 overs)	55

P A Cottey, A Dale, †A D Shaw, R D B Croft, D A Cosker, S L Watkin and O T Parkin to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-24.

BOWLING: Ilott 7-1-31-0; Cowan 7-1-18-2; Irani 0.5-0-6-0.

Bonus points: Essex 4 Glamorgan 4.

Umpires: J W Holder and R Julian.

Gloucestershire v Kent

BRISTOL (second day of four): Kent, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 66 runs behind Gloucestershire

KENT: First Innings 154 (T R Ward 86, C A Walsh 4 for 50)

Second Innings

M V Fleming b Smith	0
M J Walker not out	11
M J McCague not out	6
Extras (nb 4)	4
Total (1 wkt)	21

FALL OF WICKET: 1-3

BOWLING: Walsh 4-2-5-0; Smith 4-0-16-1

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

N J Trainor st Marsh b Patel	48
M G N Windows c Hooper b McCague	8
A Symonds c Marsh b Headley	14
R I Dawson b Headley	5
M A Lynch run out	54
M W Alleyne c Llong b Patel	23
†R C Russell b Headley	8
R P Davis c Hooper b Headley	6
A M Smith b McCague	28
M C J Ball b McCague	20
*C A Walsh not out	12
Extras (b 8, lb 5, nb 2)	15
Total (89.3 overs)	241

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27, 2-53, 3-69, 4-141, 5-153, 6-174, 7-174, 8-196, 9-216

BOWLING: McCague 19.3-5-50-3; Headley 27-8-65-4; Ealham 26-8-70-0; Fleming 6-3-10-0; Patel 11-4-33-2.

Bonus points: Gloucestershire 5 Kent 4.

Umpires: D J Constant and T E Jesty

Hampshire v Nottinghamshire

SOUTHAMPTON (second day of four): Hampshire have scored 513 for four wickets against Nottinghamshire

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings

G W White b Franks	73
J S Laney c Cairns b Afzaal	97
P R Whitaker c Noon b Franks	0
*R A Smith c Archer b Bowen	161
W S Kendall not out	103
†A N Aymes not out	38
Extras (lb 18, w 1, nb 22)	41
Total (4 wkts dec)	513

Score at 120 overs: 434-4.

L J Botham, S D Udal, R J Maru, J N B Bovill and S J Renshaw did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-147, 2-149, 3-305, 4-400.

BOWLING: Cairns 19-3-70-0; Bowen 31-4-120-1; Tolley 25-5-80-0; Franks 28-8-65-2; Afford 25-6-79-0; Dowman 4-0-29-0; Afzaal 6-0-31-1, Archer 4-1-21-0.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: R T Robinson, M P Dowman, G F Archer, *P Johnson, U Afzaal, C L Cairns, C M Tolley, †W M Noon, M N Bowen, P J Franks, J A Afford.

Bonus points: Hampshire 4 Nottinghamshire 1

Umpires: G I Burgess and V A Holder.

Leicestershire v Middlesex

LEICESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire, with two first-innings wickets in hand, are 191 runs ahead of Middlesex

MIDDLESEX: First Innings 190 (M R Ramprakash 71; A D Mullally 4 for 53)

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

V J Wells c Brown b Fay	5
D L Maddy lbw b Fay	30
B F Smith lbw b Johnson	14
*J J Whitaker hit wicket b Tufnell	89
A Habib c Brown b Johnson	49
P V Simmons not out	95
†P A Nixon c Brown b Fraser	2
D J Millns b Fay	40
G J Parsons b Weekes	6
A R K Pierson not out	1
Extras (b 16, lb 21, w 1, nb 12)	50
Total (8 wkts, 102 overs)	381

A D Mullally to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-36, 3-65, 4-204, 5-242, 6-253, 7-343, 8-380

BOWLING: Fraser 28-5-91-1; Fay 24-3-87-3; Tufnell 28-4-89-1; Johnson 19-2-67-2; Weekes 5-1-10-1.

Bonus points: Leicestershire 8 Middlesex 3

Umpires: B Leadbeater and P Willey.

Northamptonshire v Yorkshire

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Northamptonshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 395 runs behind Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE: First Innings

M D Moxon c T M B Bailey b Penberthy	57
M P Vaughan b Innes	183
*D Byas c Brown b Taylor	21
A McGrath c Curran b Innes	27
R A Kettleborough b Innes	32
C White b Walton	66
†R J Blakey b Penberthy	33
D Gough c R J Bailey b Penberthy	18
G M Hamilton b Penberthy	0
C E W Silverwood c Emburey b Penberthy	12
R D Stemp not out	0
Extras (b 9, lb 15, w 1, nb 4)	29
Total	478

Score at 120 overs: 414-5.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-112, 2-144, 3-206, 4-271, 5-376, 6-445, 7-449, 8-457, 9-478.

BOWLING: Taylor 27-3-98-1; Innes 25-3-79-3; Emburey 26-7-94-0; Penberthy 23.4-6-92-5, Brown 22-8-64-0; Walton 9-1-29-1.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings

R R Montgomerie c Blakey b Gough	10
M B Loye lbw b Hamilton	29
*R J Bailey not out	8
K M Curran not out	14
Extras (b 9, lb 3, nb 10)	22
Total (2 wkts, 21.1 overs)	83

T C Walton, A L Penberthy, J E Emburey, K J Innes, †T M B Bailey, J P Taylor and J F Brown to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-50, 2-54

BOWLING: Gough 10-1-45-1; Silverwood 5-0-17-0; Hamilton 6.1-2-9-1.

Bonus points: Northamptonshire 2 Yorkshire 4.

Umpires: B Dudleston and A G T Whitehead.

Surrey v Worcestershire

THE OVAL (second day of four: Surrey won toss): Worcestershire have scored 134 for three wickets against Surrey

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

T S Curtis lbw b M P Bicknell	16
W P C Weston b Benjamin	2
G A Hick c M P Bicknell b Julian	13
*T M Moody not out	60
K R Spiring not out	30
Extras (lb 1, nb 12)	13
Total (3 wkts, 40 overs)	134

V S Solanki, D A Leatherdale, †S J Rhodes, R K Illingworth, P A Thomas and S W K Ellis to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-32, 3-32.

BOWLING: M P Bicknell 11-4-23-1; Benjamin 11-3-33-1; Julian 8-1-37-1; A J Hollioake 6-1-21-0; B C Hollioake 4-0-19-0.

SURREY: D J Bicknell, M A Butcher, *†A J Stewart, G P Thorpe, N Shahid, A J Hollioake, A D Brown, B P Julian, M P Bicknell, B C Hollioake, J E Benjamin.

Bonus points: Surrey 1 Worcestershire 0.

Umpires: K E Palmer and G Sharp.

Sussex v Somerset

HOVE (second day of four): Sussex, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 150 runs behind Somerset

SUSSEX: First Innings 141 (A R Caddick 5 for 58, S Lee 4 for 52)

Second Innings

N J Lenham not out	41
C W J Athey not out	21
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (no wkt)	63

BOWLING: Caddick 6-0-23-0; Shine 1-0-8-0; Cottam 8-1-21-0; Trump 3-1-10-0.

SOMERSET: First Innings

M N Lathwell c Moores b Drakes	56
M E Trescothick c Moores b Drakes	1
*P D Bowler lbw b Salisbury	20
R J Harden c Wells b Salisbury	78
P C L Holloway c Moores b Drakes	0
S Lee c Moores b Phillips	126
†R J Turner not out	27
A R Caddick c Greenfield b Salisbury	10
H R J Trump c Athey b Salisbury	0
K J Shine b Phillips	1
A C Cottam c Phillips b Salisbury	12
Extras (b 4, lb 10, w 1, nb 8)	23
Total (89.1 overs)	354

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-75, 3-87, 4-87, 5-295, 6-305, 7-330, 8-330, 9-331.

BOWLING: Drakes 18-0-88-3; Law 9-0-32-0; Salisbury 31.1-6-91-5; Phillips 21-2-92-2; Kirtley 9-1-37-0; Lenham 1-1-0-0.

Bonus points: Sussex 4 Somerset 8

Umpires: J H Hampshire and J D Bond.

Warwickshire v Lancashire

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Lancashire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 105 runs behind Warwickshire

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings

N V Knight lbw b Chapple	33
A J Moles c Keedy b Gallian	11
W G Khan lbw b Green	6
M Burns c Lloyd b Keedy	61
T L Penney c and b Titchard	23
D R Brown c Fairbrother b Chapple	14
†K J Piper c Lloyd b Yates	17
N M K Smith c Gallian b Chapple	74
A F Giles not out	106
G Welch c and b Green	4
*T A Munton c Crawley b Chapple	5
Extras (b 5, lb 7, w 2, nb 18)	32
Total (106.3 overs)	386

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-50, 2-58, 3-61, 4-100, 5-137, 6-188, 7-196, 8-359, 9-365.

BOWLING: Chapple 28.3-6-85-4; Green 18-1-67-2; Gallian 14-2-56-1; Titchard 15-3-51-1, Keedy 15-4-50-1; Yates 16-0-65-1.

LANCASHIRE: First Innings

S P Titchard b Giles	48
J E R Gallian b Munton	3
*J P Crawley b Smith	73
N H Fairbrother not out	55
G D Lloyd not out	63
Extras (b 18, lb 11, w 2, nb 8)	39
Total (3 wkts, 73 overs)	281

†W K Hegg, P C McKeown, G Chapple, G Yates, R J Green and G Keedy to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-143, 3-143.

BOWLING: Munton 15-4-32-1, Welch 7-2-25-0; Giles 22-5-70-1; Brown 11-0-54-0; Smith 18-3-71-1.

Bonus points: Warwickshire 5 Lancashire 6

Umpires: N T Plews and A Clarkson

Second Test match

Zimbabwe v Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (third day of five): Zimbabwe, with four second-innings wickets in hand, need 47 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Sri Lanka.

ZIMBABWE: First Innings 141 (G W Flower 52; M Muralitharan 4 for 40; Silva 4 for 16)

Second Innings

G W Flower lbw b Silva	13
M H Dekker lbw b Vaas	4
A Shah not out	62
*A D R Campbell c sub b Silva	4
†A Flower c Gurusinha b Muralitharan	31
C B Wishart c Kaluwitharana b Jayasuriya	25
G J Whittall c Gurusinha b Jayasuriya	3
A R Whittall not out	1
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 1, nb 13)	19
Total (6 wkts)	162

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-30, 3-34, 4-91, 5-135, 6-144.

BOWLING: Vaas 15-9-8-1; Pushpakumara 5-0-17-0; Muralitharan 32-9-70-1; Silva 19-6-35-2; de Silva 5-1-11-0; Jayasuriya 7-3-16-2.

SRI LANKA: First Innings

R S Mahanama c Flower b B C Strang	3
S T Jayasuriya c A R Whittall b P A Strang	41
A P Gurusinha c Wishart b B C Strang	86
P A de Silva c and b P A Strang	18
*A Ranatunga c Wishart b B C Strang	6
H P Tillekeratne not out	126
†R S Kaluwitharana c A Flower b G J Whittall	27
W P U J C Vaas st A Flower b P A Strang	8
K R Pushpakumara c B C Strang b P A Strang	23
M Muralitharan not out	1
Extras (lb 4, w 3, nb 4)	11
Total (8 wkts dec)	350

K J Silva did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-58, 3-86, 4-102, 5-216, 6-267, 7-276, 8-340

BOWLING: Olonga 26-6-81-0; B C Strang 20-6-63-3; A R Whittall 31-7-75-0; P A Strang 38-11-68-4; G J Whittall 17-4-48-1; G W Flower 2-0-13-0.

Umpires: C Mitchley (South Africa) and K T Francis (Sri Lanka)

THE TIMES Mees Pierson CORPORATE GOLF CHALLENGE

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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21 1996

Hill told to accept brief stay at the summit

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN ESTORIL

LIFE has been a box of chocolates for Damon Hill for much of the year, but the soft centres have turned decidedly bitter-sweet. Last night, as the Englishman stood on the brink of his first drivers' world championship, Bernie Ecclestone, the most powerful man in Formula One, spelt out a few home truths.

Ecclestone, the president of the Formula One Constructors' Association and an increasing admirer of Hill, advised him in bleak terms that he should either leave the sport once he has won the world championship this year or resign himself to an altruistic end to his career without hope of another title victory.

It appears that both Ecclestone and Hill, who leads the championship by 13 points going into the penultimate round, the Portuguese Grand Prix, tomorrow, are growing increasingly pessimistic about the chances of getting him Jean Alesi's drive at Benetton-Renault. Alesi is rumoured to be asking for £12 million in severance pay were he to be forced out.

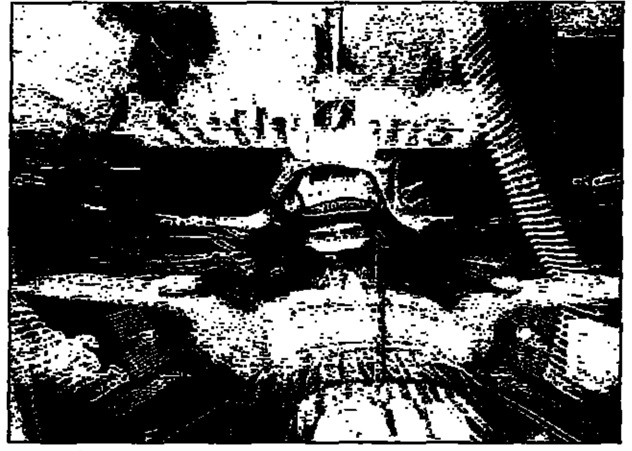
This sum outstrips even the amount that Renault are prepared to pay to put Hill and the prestigious No 1 he would bring with him if he is world champion, in a car powered by their engines. The other top teams — Williams, Ferrari and McLaren — have freshly-painted "No Vacancy" signs outside their motorhomes.

It seems more and more likely, in fact, that Hill is being pushed into the outstretched arms of Jordan-Peugeot, where he would form an intriguing partnership with Ralf Schumacher, 21, the younger brother of his greatest rival. The German's signing was formally announced at a press conference here yesterday morning.

Jordan, who hope to make a great leap forward next season, would offer Hill the chance of podium positions. More importantly, the influence of the ebullient team owner, Eddie Jordan, would rid Hill of the whingeing image that he has been unfairly labelled with and thus give him the one thing a world championship never could.

It would also mean, though, that Hill would have to accept a huge pay-cut, probably to less than half his present £6 million, if he joined the Irish team, but Ecclestone implied last night that Hill, whose fate many believe was sealed long before this season began, when Williams secretly signed Heinz-Harald Frentzen, has little choice. Ecclestone said that Hill had destroyed his chances of signing for another year with Williams by asking for £10 million.

MARC ASPLAND



Hill focuses on the task ahead during practice yesterday

"It is unfortunate that Damon cannot defend his championship in the team with which he won it," Ecclestone said. "Now, though, it looks as if he is going to have to quit or settle for a role in which he can give something back to the sport. You have got to know when to go. When you have peaked, you say '*adios*'.

"If he went to Jordan, he could take on the role of having Ralf Schumacher under his wing and help him along at the beginning of his career. He would give Jordan a boost, too, and there is no reason why Eddie Jordan, the team owner, cannot do what Frank Williams has done if he takes a few risks and works hard.

"You could even say that he [Hill] has the chance to help Michael's brother when Michael himself has refused to do that. Michael could have insisted that he [Ralf] went to Ferrari with him, but he didn't do it. It will have to be a whole change of emphasis for Damon next year because he will have to resign himself to sacrificing his championship.

"If he accepted that and went to Jordan, it would be good for him and the sport. If he is not in a position to defend the championship, Jordan would be the next best thing to do. He could say: 'I am world champion, so now I am going to give something back.'"

Hill stayed tight-lipped about his future after finishing second in practice yesterday, save to say that he was in discussions with a number of teams and had not considered retiring. He admitted, though, that he was surprised at the speed of the rise of the younger Schumacher.

"I thought the world could probably bear only one Schumacher, but now we have got two," he said. "I did not even know he had a brother until earlier this year, so it has all rather caught me by surprise. He seems very confident and he has got a great opportunity."

Aside from the obvious benefits of his name and the £3 million worth of sponsorship money he is supposed to be bringing to the team, Jordan have plumped for the world champion's brother because of his proven talent. He won the prestigious Formula 3 race in Macao last year and now leads the Formula Nippon championship in Japan.

His capture and the possibility that Hill may soon follow should represent the dawn of a bright new era for Jordan, who have endured a surprisingly lacklustre season this year. Benson and Hedges announced an increased commitment to the team yesterday and their prospects for next year look healthier by the day.

"There had to be a big strategy change for next year," Eddie Jordan said. "Maybe, in the years to come, we will say that our transition year from being nearly there to a place in the top four teams came in 1996." Hill, for one, is probably praying he is right.

Practice times, page 46

World No 1 forgets foursomes defeat to peg back United States

Davies drives Europe's revival

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

LAURA DAVIES was always likely to be the dominant figure in the Solheim Cup but few could have foreseen precisely how she would influence proceedings on the first day at St Pierre. In the morning foursomes, Davies played as if she were a hacker. In the afternoon fourballs, she played as if she were a goddess. Rarely have the heights and depths that a golfer is susceptible to been so demonstrated as they were by the world's No 1 woman golfer yesterday.

The result of Davies's turnaround was an improvement in Europe's fortunes as they competed for the cup presented by Karsten Solheim, the Norwegian-born American who invented Ping golf clubs. After the United States had won or halved all four of the foursomes matches, Davies adopted what can only be described as a scorched-earth policy in the afternoon. With a display of breathtaking golf, she led her team-mates to counter-attack with spirit and effectiveness. After the first day's play, the US led 5-3.

SOLHEIM CUP
EUROPE • USA

Though the Americans won the foursomes 3½-½, the matches were all close, three ending on the home green, the fourth on the 17th. Mickey Walker, the Europe captain, though obviously disappointed, nevertheless stressed to her team how things could turn round in matchplay golf. Even she could not have expected the extent of the change in fortunes that would occur after lunch. At one point Europe led in all four matches.

The turnaround was hatched in the team room when Kathryn Marshall, who had not played in the morning, entered to confront a sea of gloomy faces. Marshall was having none of it. "I wanted to remind them that this was meant to be fun," Marshall said. She put on a tape entitled *We've got the Power* and the room was filled with deafening music.

That deafening blast changed everything, notably Davies. She was more sinner than sinned against in the morning against Patty Sheehan and Rosie Jones, and thus she and Alison Nicholas lost their first foursomes in this event.

Too often on a dismal morning when rain was always threatening but did not ly arrive, Davies looked as though she was trying a touch too hard and, as a result, shots went awry. But, knowing what a competitor and a team person she is, it was always likely that she would bounce back and the way she played in the afternoon beggared belief.

Davies, right, celebrates with Johnson after chipping in for a birdie to go five up with seven holes to play in their afternoon fourball

"Come on, let's go and do this," she said to Matthew Adams, her caddie, on the 1st tee and Davies, helped by Trish Johnson from time to time, then went and did it. She birdied the first three holes, holing from six feet, 20 feet and 12 feet and nearly holed in one on the 8th, her drive of 275 yards grazing the hole.

This was the Davies of legend, attacking the course and bringing it to its knees with a devastating mixture of power and deftness. She played with such a furious intent that Kelly Robbins and Pat Bradley were simply swept aside.

Davies chipped in on the 11th, hit an enormous drive on the 12th that set up another birdie and a drive on the 13th, fully 80 yards in front of the other three, that gave her the chance to birdie that hole and end the match. She and Johnson had had nine birdies between them in 13 holes. Her smile after this performance was as wide as her shoulders.

Marshall's performance was impressive, too. She and Annika Sorenstam were three-up at the turn against Val Skinner and Jane Geddes, two Americans who had been rested in the morning, and Marshall was looking just as comfortable as her distinguished partner. Skinner won the 5th, when her ball was stopped by a photographer and she chipped in, and nearly won the 13th. There, her drive rebounded from a tree and she all but holed her second. However, Sorenstam gained a half with a putt for a birdie from 20 feet and the Europeans held on to win by one hole

Just when it looked as though Europe could emerge unbeaten from the fourballs in the afternoon, Dottie Pepper and Betsy King overcame Liselotte Neumann and Catrin Nilsmark thanks to an inspired run by Pepper. As dusk gathered over the Severn estuary, Helen Alfredsson and Nicholas, who were never down in their match against Meg Mallon and Beth Daniel, were denied victory when Daniel holed from 12 feet on the 18th to snatch a half-point.

RESULTS

Europe names first

FOURSOMES: A Sorenstam and C Nilsmark halved with K Robbins and M McGann, L Davies and A Nicholas lost to P Sheehan and R Jones 1 hole; M L de Lorenzi and D Reid lost to E Daniel and V Skinner 1 hole; H Alfredsson and L Neumann lost to D Pepper and B Burton 2 and 1. Result: Europe ½ United States 3½

FOURBALLS: Davies and T Johnson bt Robbins and P Bradley 6 and 5; Sorenstam and K Marshall bt Skinner and J Geddes 1 hole; Neumann and Nilsmark lost to Pepper and King 1 hole; Alfredsson and Nicholas halved with M Mallon and Daniel. Result: Europe 2½ United States 1½

MATCH POSITION (at the end of first day) Europe 3 United States 5.

TODAY: Foursomes (four matches, 8 0am) Fourballs (four matches, 1 15pm)

TOMORROW: Singles (12 matches, 8 45am)

Peerless Pepper presents more acceptable face

Patricia Davies on the American who has learnt to channel her innate aggression

Pepper: successful in the foursomes and fourballs

Wales should suit Dottie Pepper — dragons breathing fire and all that — and yesterday, on the first day of the fourth Solheim Cup, the combustible American lit up St Pierre with the quality of her golf, especially in the afternoon fourballs.

Pepper was, to use the jargon, pumped up, but it was not the near hyperventilation of The Greenbrier two years ago, when she won all three of her matches, but in a style that overplayed the outer obnoxiousness. This was the acceptable face of the United States No 1, and she showed that it is not necessary to mimic a raving lunatic to be as fierce a competitor as there is in golf.

In the morning foursomes, Pepper partnered Brandie Burton, who played with an ankle injury, against the Swedes, Helen Alfredsson and Liselotte Neumann, in a repeat of the match two years ago. The Americans were greeted with polite applause and the Swedes got an enthusiastic chorus from one of Abba's greatest hits. Still, Pepper managed a smile, but it was interesting that the referee, Jim Haley, took the players aside and gave them their instructions, as though he were telling them that he expected a good, clean fight.

There were no fireworks on a blustery day but the Americans, who had won 3 and 2 last time, came from behind, to win again 2 and 1, as the Swedes frittered away strokes in the closing stages. "We didn't play as well as we had hoped, but we certainly made our pressure putts," Pepper said.

The Swedes agreed. "You can only congratulate Dottie. She putted extremely well today and is an extremely good match player," Neumann said.

Neumann was to have that confirmed in the fourballs, when, in company with Catrin Nilsmark, she faced Pepper and Betsy King. Fourballs suit Pepper because it is the most aggressive form of the game, giving her two balls to shout at, her own and her partner's. The instructions are loud and usually terse: "Get back there." "Be right." "Bite." "Sit."

"Isn't she noisy?" one Welshwoman said to another, more amused than annoyed. What is more, the ball usually listens and, in a match of the highest quality, Pepper's passion — and her play, particularly her putting — eclipsed even the admirable Nilsmark and the gritty Neumann, who was not at her imperious best.

Two down after seven holes, Pepper, who was the last American to top the world rankings, holed a ten-foot putt for a birdie three at the 8th to win the hole. On the second nine, she applied the afterburners, blasting her side into a two-hole lead with three birdies in a row from the 11th.

However, it was a birdie three at the 15th that was to prove crucial. Neumann had won the 14th with a birdie and Nilsmark had followed up with one of her own at the next. Pepper was 18 feet away and her putt for the half was right in the middle.

In the end, it was King who closed out a superb match with a birdie four at the 18th, but she was in a position to do so because of her partner's peerless performance.

Docherty offers aid to City

ANOTHER avenue was closed to Manchester City in their search for a new manager yesterday when Bruce Rioch accepted the job as Stewart Houston's assistant at Queens Park Rangers, a surprising reversal of roles (Peter Ball writes). Until Rioch's dismissal, Houston had been his assistant at Arsenal and stayed on as caretaker.

Houston finally left Highbury last week to take over at QPR and Rioch is his first appointment. "People will talk about reversal of roles, but Bruce knows the situation," Houston said. "I'm the boss and I envisage no problems."

Rioch had always seemed an unlikely candidate for Manchester City, but yesterday an even more unlikely one emerged. Tommy Docherty, once manager of Houston and Rioch with Scotland, now earning his crust as an after dinner speaker and radio pundit, volunteered his services as a consultant, working with a young coach.

"It's a genuine offer," Docherty, 72, said. "I am prepared to help City until they appoint a permanent manager. All Francis Lee [the chairman] has to do is give me a call. Things have reached rock bottom, and Manchester needs two great clubs."

Cultured Nelson, page 46
Premiership guide, page 47

Gatting's ploy just not cricket

MIKE GATTING deflected attention from Leicestershire's relentless quest for the county championship yesterday when he became involved in a dispute with the umpires over the use of a tactic the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) is seeking to outlaw (Alan Lee writes).

Gatting, captain of a Middlesex side being thoroughly outplayed in the match that will take the title to Leicester for the first time in 21 years, sanctioned Phil Tufnell, the England left-arm spinner, bowling over the wicket into the leg-stump rough. More contentiously, he stationed his wicketkeeper, Keith Brown, two feet outside leg stump.

Phil Simmons, Leicestershire's West Indies all-rounder, objected to Brown's position on the grounds that he constituted a third fielder behind square on the leg side, where the laws of the game permit only two. He raised the matter with the umpires, Barrie Leadbeater and Peter Willey, who then discussed it protractedly and animatedly with Gatting.

Leadbeater finally referred the dispute to the TCCB, whose cricket secretary, Tim Lamb, while condemning the practice as "not an edifying part of the game", ruled that Brown was within the laws of cricket.

Champions elect, page 51

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Bosnia war crimes judge condemns half-hearted West

Reluctance to arrest the main culprits is undermining the Balkan tribunal's credibility, the chief prosecutor tells

Ben Macintyre in The Hague

HANS PUNZ/AP

Judge Richard Goldstone, the chief prosecutor of the International War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague

The war crimes tribunal in The Hague may be fatally undermined unless the West takes swift steps to arrest Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb war crime suspects, Richard Goldstone said angrily this week as he prepared to step down as the tribunal's chief prosecutor.

In an interview with *The Times*, the outspoken South African judge expressed his "tremendous frustration and unhappiness" at Nato's refusal to hunt down the Bosnian Serb leader and his military commander and bring them to justice, while he attacked the West's "hands-off" approach as "highly inappropriate, to put it mildly".

Dr Karadzic and General Mladic face international arrest warrants for allegedly "instigating, planning and ordering the genocide and the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia".

So far, 74 arrest warrants have been issued for suspected Bosnian war criminals, but only eight are currently in custody and the peacekeeping forces in Bosnia are under orders to arrest individuals only if they come across them in the course of their duties.

"They know where these people are, and according to our information the men on the ground are as frustrated as we are and would like to go out and get them," the judge said.

The West's reluctance to apprehend the suspects is "very much a political decision", he added, noting that the US is particularly unwilling to risk possible bloodshed and domestic political criticism by attempting to round up the indicted Bosnian Serb leaders.

"Any decent, rational human being must recognise how inappropriate it is for the international community not to arrest these people when you look at the massive crimes they're charged with. Compare it to a national situation. It would be ridiculous to suggest that the police shouldn't go and arrest massive criminals like this because they might get injured," Mr Justice Goldstone said. He noted that his successor as chief prosecutor, Judge Louise Arbour, of Canada, faces a daunting job when she takes over on October 1.

The court at The Hague "is effectively being prevented from doing the job it was set up to do, and if this continues too long it's going to destroy the credibility of the tribunal", he said.

The continuing trial of Dusko Tadic has attracted widespread media attention but the judge conceded that the Serbian café owner, who is charged with horrific crimes against humanity, was a comparatively minor player in Bosnia's genocidal violence. Mr Tadic is accused of torture, sexual assault and the murders of up to 13 people, while Mr Karadzic and General Mladic have been accused of responsibility for the deaths of 7,000 Muslims in the enclave of Srebrenica alone.

As a South African and the former head of the three-year commission to investigate political violence, human rights abuses and intimidation in his own country, the judge was widely praised for exposing the shadowy "third force" of white security force members who fomented violence between rival black groups.

An intense man, whose passionate belief in the tribunal's moral role contrasts with a clipped, often legalistic turn of phrase, Mr Justice Goldstone believes that the importance of the court is primarily symbolic, but he also emphasised that the proceedings provide a unique opportunity to build an international legal code to deal with war crimes and perhaps render them less likely in the future.

"The central function and purpose of the tribunal is to establish individual as opposed to collective guilt. That was the importance of Nuremberg. It enabled the German people to come to grips with their own terrible inheritance from the Third Reich," Mr Justice Goldstone said.

But whereas the war crimes trials then were staged by the victors and involved the conviction of key criminals on the basis of voluminous evidence, the tribunal at The Hague is hampered by lack of funds and international co-operation. "We decided our strategy must be to go for the leaders because of the small number we could put on trial ... but without the big fish, the symbolic power is dissipated," the judge noted bitterly.

The judge, who will be returning to South Africa next month to take his seat at constitutional court, said he felt "substantial satisfaction" that the machinery for prosecuting Bosnia's war criminals had been put in place, but "unhappy and frustrated that so few arrests have been made, notwithstanding the issuing of arrest warrants".

If last weekend's elections finally restore a greater measure of political stability in Bosnia then Mr Karadzic and General Mladic may become increasingly marginalised, and thus "pressure for their arrests is going to increase, not decrease", Mr Justice Goldstone predicted, adding that "the next six months are vital".

He believes that the Bosnian war crimes tribunal and its sister proceedings for Rwanda represent an unprecedented legal effort that may pave the way for a permanent international court to punish and perhaps prevent crimes against humanity.

But he leaves The Hague with a stern warning: with the ringleaders of the mass murder in Bosnia still at large and only a handful of alleged criminals behind bars awaiting trial, the tribunal risks being remembered instead as a hollow monument to good intentions.

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THE EXPERTS IN HOME IMPROVEMENT

Surrender or die, Seoul tells trapped spies from North

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

NORTH KOREAN infiltrators from a stranded submarine were last night trapped in disused mineshafts as South Korean security forces closed in after a three-day manhunt.

Troops with loudhailers shouted their demands that the men give themselves up across a wind-blown stretch of rugged mountainside which is pockmarked with mineshafts. Overhead, helicopters scattered leaflets calling on the men to surrender.

"You are surrounded. If you abandon your weapons and surrender, you can live. Most of your colleagues have been shot to death. We urge you to surrender immediately," an army officer shouted repeatedly through a loudspeaker on a military vehicle.

The fugitives were the remnants of a squad of armed infiltrators who came ashore in South Korea after their submarine struck a reef on Wednesday. Eighteen are confirmed to have been shot dead and one has been captured alive out of what is believed to have been an original total of 26 infiltrators.

Media reports quoted the captured man as telling interrogators that 26 North Koreans had landed. Three, he said, were saboteurs — trained to survive behind enemy lines and cover huge distances on foot. They were among those still at large.

In case they evaded the dragnet around the mines, South Korean troops were last night lying in ambush along roads and mountain passes leading to North Korea, a Defence Ministry official in Kangnung said. South Korean forces saturating the area were uncertain how many North Koreans had taken refuge in the mine, which is about ten miles from where they landed near the east coast city of Kangnung.

In the three-day sweep, 60 miles south of the demilitarised zone separating the two Koreas, troops have also retrieved five assault rifles, four handguns, ammunition, clothes and two radio transmitters. A camera and magazines for US-made M16 rifles were also found.

In Washington, Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, urged "all parties" to avoid further provocative action. Seoul said it would brief the UN Security Council on the drama and Japan denounced the incident. "We have an interest in peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, and it is deplorable that North Korea has brought about this incident," Seiroku Kajiyama, a government spokesman, said. "We call on North Korea immediately to end these kinds of actions."

Pyongyang remained silent over the fracas, but an official radio broadcast gave its veiled reaction to the incident, accusing South Korea of taking "provocative action". There was no reference to the squad of infiltrators virtually wiped out over the past three days.

"The South Korean puppets on the 17th and 18th [of September] took successive provocative actions against North Korea near the demilitarised zone," said a Korean Central Radio broadcast monitored in Tokyo. North Korean media carried official threats to restart the nuclear programme, accusing Washington of remaining hostile to the North in violation of a 1994 bilateral accord. Seoul has described the incident as the most serious infiltration since the 1960s and a military provocation. The landing has reminded South Koreans how vulnerable they are to attack by their capricious arch-enemy in the north.

Seoul said last night that Gong Ro Myung, its Foreign Minister, would condemn the North Korean intrusion before the United Nations.

AFP

South Korean soldiers disembark to search mountain passes for the runaway infiltrators from the North

Japanese militants to repeat islands expedition

BY ROBERT WHYMANT

JAPANESE nationalists are planning a new expedition to uninhabited islands claimed by both China and Taiwan, despite warnings by Peking and undaunted by a wave of anti-Japanese sentiment provoked by their activities on the chain of rocks in the East China Sea.

As the Japanese Government appealed yesterday for a "calm approach" to the territorial dispute over the islets — called Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese — the right-wing Japan Youth Federation said that the planned sortie would reinforce Tokyo's sovereignty over the islands.

The federation, a 3,000-strong nationalist group with roots in the underworld, is at the centre of the present flare-up of tension in the region. In July, Toyohisa Eto, the federation's leader, sent seven followers to build a token lighthouse on the islands, located 200 miles west of Okinawa. On September 9 a second landing party went to repair damage to the lighthouse caused by a typhoon.

The next day China warned Japan of serious damage to relations if it failed to stop right-wing activity on the islands. This week Chinese people in mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan have vented their anger in street protests and called for boycotts of Japanese goods.

Seiroku Kajiyama, Japan's chief government spokesman, sought yesterday to lessen the tension. "Japan and China, or Japan and Taiwan, must avoid anything so reckless as destroying their relationship," Mr Kajiyama said. "We need to take a calm approach to this issue."

He repeated that Japan had sovereignty over the islands and rejected Chinese demands that the Government should remove the offending lighthouse. "It is crystal-clear that we have sovereignty," he said. "As Japan is a democratic society, the Japanese Government cannot say anything about building something on private land."

Mr Eto said that he would send a team to the islands in November for maintenance work on the lighthouse. Flanked by youths in paramilitary uniforms, he accused Tokyo of timidity and said there was a danger that China would seize the Senkaku chain by force if Japan failed to take a stronger line.

China lost the islands after a war with Japan in 1895 and showed little interest in reclaiming them until 1968, when a United Nations report concluded that the area was a promising site for oil and gas exploration.

A Taiwanese protests at the Japanese claim

WORLD SUMMARY

Drug raid police hold Britons

Hong Kong: Hong Kong police arrested 22 American, Irish and British nationals yesterday after a three-day drugs operation. The 13 men and nine women were reported to be in their twenties.

The arrests came after police seized 1,521 tablets of the rave drug Ecstasy, 4.4lb of cannabis, 10.5oz of cocaine and 50 tablets of LSD during raids on 41 premises. Two groups of "predominately European drug traffickers" have been identified, police reported. Officers were expecting to make further arrests both in Hong Kong and overseas. *(Reuter)*

Family rattled by 'Netanyahu'

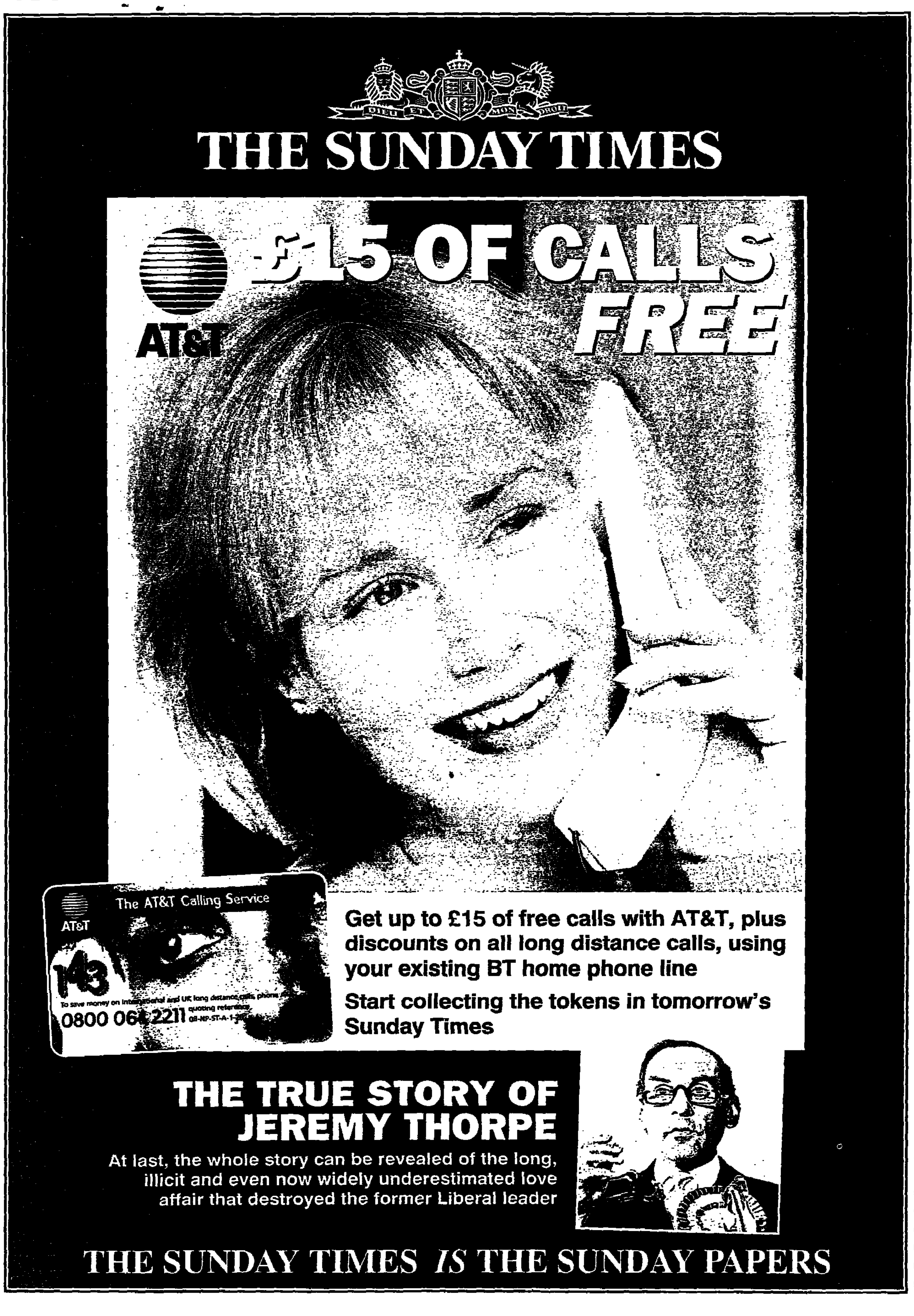
Jerusalem: Ibrahim al-Abadi, an Arab farmer in Jordan, has infuriated his wife and family by naming his son "Netanyahu" after the Israeli leader because the boy's Jewish namesake had flown to meet King Husain (Christopher Walker writes). One angry uncle said he saw a likeness between baby and namesake: "He is always agitated and has not smiled once."

Gay 'spouses' get IBM benefits

New York: Homosexual rights made another gain in America this week when International Business Machines (IBM), the multinational computer company, said it will extend spouse benefits to lovers of gay, US-based employees (Quentin Letts writes). Homosexual campaigners hailed a victory for equality.

Baboons betray cannabis runner

Harare: A long-distance lorry driver who tried to smuggle cannabis into Zimbabwe started a six-month jail term, thanks to a troop of baboons (Michael Hartnack writes). They scented the drug and tore off tarpaulins covering the load at the Zambia border.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Dole seizes on Clinton drug 'joke' in crusade for votes

From Martin Fletcher in Washington

BOB DOLE, trailing badly in the opinion polls, yesterday launched his most personal attack yet on President Clinton with a new television advertisement showing his rival joking that he would inhale marijuana given another chance.

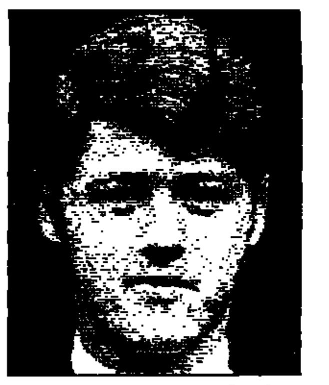
Mr Clinton, meanwhile, hinted that he might give his wife, Hillary, another high-profile public role if he wins re-election despite her disastrous attempt to reform America's healthcare system.

During the 1992 campaign Mr Clinton admitted trying marijuana while an Oxford student but insisted he did not inhale. The Dole advertisement shows a clip of a teenage MTV audience asking him later in that campaign whether he would inhale another time. "Sure, if I could. I tried before," he replied, laughing.

"In front of our children, on MTV, the President himself . . ." intones the narrator, who reminds viewers that teenage drug use has doubled since 1992. "Bill Clinton doesn't get it — but we do."

The advertisement is part of a new anti-drugs crusade Mr Dole launched this week in the belief that drug abuse is an issue that resonates among key suburban voters and on which the President is vulnerable. Mr Clinton has argued that his 1992 comment was lighthearted, and in no way meant to suggest experimentation with drugs was acceptable. In an interview with Barbara Walters on ABC television last night, he went further, saying of his Oxford flirtation with marijuana: "It was wrong."

In the same interview, Mr Clinton suggested he might enlist his wife to improve the radical Republican Bill on welfare reform that he signed in July — another comment Republicans will seize on.



Clinton as an Oxford student in 1968

"I said [the Bill] was the beginning, not the end, and I think the real advocates of children, including the First Lady, have to weigh in," he said. "I think the business people will listen to her. I think child advocates will listen to her. I think that people at the state level will."

Mrs Clinton, seated next to her husband, said it was the first she had heard of such an assignment. "Sounds like an exciting . . ." she began, but Mr Clinton hastily interrupted. "It's not a formal role. It's not a formal role," he insisted.

The Bill returned responsibility for welfare to the states, ended a 60-year guarantee of federal assistance to the poor and would, by the Administration's own estimates, push a million children into poverty. Despite the furious opposition of many Democrats, President Clinton signed it.

Two new national polls yesterday put Mr Dole 16 and 22 percentage points behind Mr Clinton, but the true measure of the 73-year-old Republican's plight are individual state polls, which show him struggling to hold even those states that were considered rock-solid Republican.

He is five points behind in Florida, which has not voted for a Democrat in 20 years, and just one point ahead in Virginia, which last voted for a Democrat in 1964. In Arizona, which has voted Republican in every election since 1948, Mr Dole is level in one poll and an astonishing 18 points behind in another. He is level with Mr Clinton in North Dakota, which has voted solidly Republican for 32 years.

Mr Dole insists he will fight for the key state of California, but his prospects there look increasingly hopeless. Two polls yesterday put him 16 and 17 points behind, and he is trailing Mr Clinton in Orange Country, the birthplace of the "Reagan Revolution".

White House officials are now suggesting that the President might offer Ross Perot a one-to-one debate if the Dole camp continues to bar the Texan from this autumn's official debates. They believe Mr Perot can fragment the Republican vote further.

LIU XIN/AP

Workers are shepherded by armed police as they hurry from the office of a legal firm in West Palm Beach, Florida, after a gunman entered the building and shot two lawyers, one of whom died. The gunman, who was named later by the police as Terry Hogan, killed himself at the end of a four-hour siege on Thursday

Party strategists turn to fight for Congress

From Martin Fletcher in Washington

WITH President Clinton seemingly cruising to victory in November, Republicans and Democrats are rapidly turning their attention to the autumn's real contest: the battle for Congress.

Mr Clinton this week ordered his own top fundraiser, Terry McAuliffe, to launch a multimillion-dollar fundraising drive on behalf of Democratic congressional candidates, and for the first time has begun calling for a Democratic Congress in campaign speeches.

Richard Gephardt, the Democrats' House leader, is striving to convince America that his party has learnt from its 1994 defeat, promising: "We will do a better job." He has rallied his party behind a centrist platform, "Families First", and insists: "We're all 'New Democrats' now. We have to be. Times change."

Newt Gingrich's Republicans are issuing warnings about returning Congress to big-spending "liberals" and are rushing through legislation to soften their extremist image.

On Thursday they agreed to expand insurance coverage for the mentally ill and let new mothers stay longer in hospital. The Republicans recently passed legislation allowing Americans who lose their jobs to keep their health insurance. They are also seeking an early budget agreement to erase memories of last winter's government shutdowns. "I've not seen this dramatic a change in colour or stripes since I've been in the zoo," quipped Tom Daschle, the Democrats' Senate leader.

To recover the control of Congress they lost for the first time in 40 years in 1994, the Democrats must gain 19 House and three Senate seats. If they succeed they could dramatically reshape President Clinton's second term by enabling him to pursue an activist domestic agenda.

Democrats pin their hopes on Mr Gingrich's unpopularity, polls showing voters more likely to vote Democrat in congressional races, and a low Republican turnout if a Clinton win looks inevitable. The Republicans have also selected several hardline conservatives to fight seats where their incumbents are retiring and are in strategic disarray. They have no national platform like 1994's *Contract with America*. It is each candidate for himself, and some are studiously distancing themselves from Mr Gingrich and Bob Dole.

ELECTION '96

The Republicans take heart from the fact that the Democrats must defend many more seats where popular incumbents are retiring, especially in the conservative South, and that historically a President's "coat-tails" have not proved very long. In 1972, when President Nixon buried George McGovern, the Democrats lost 12 House seats but gained two senators. In 1964, when President Johnson routed Barry Goldwater in the second biggest postwar landslide, the Democrats admittedly enjoyed a huge 38-seat gain in the House, but only picked up a pair of Senate seats. If Mr Clinton's re-election looks assured, voters could return a Republican Congress to constrain him.

All 435 House seats are being contested, and the Democrats are targeting the 73 first-term Republicans — the shock-troops of the Gingrich "Revolution". Of those, 47 won with less than 55 per cent support and the trade unions have swamped their districts with hostile advertisements.

The hottest of the 34 Senate races will be for the 14 seats — eight Democratic, six Republican — where incumbents are retiring. The other key races are in Massachusetts, where Bill Weld, the Governor, is challenging John Kerry, the Democrat incumbent; in Minnesota, where Paul Wellstone, a liberal Democrat, faces Rudy Boschwitz: and in North Carolina, where Jesse Helms again battles Harvey Gantt, his black opponent from 1990. In New Hampshire and South Dakota, the Republican incumbents, Bob Smith and Larry Pressler, are both struggling.

Broadway bows to 'brilliant Brit' actor

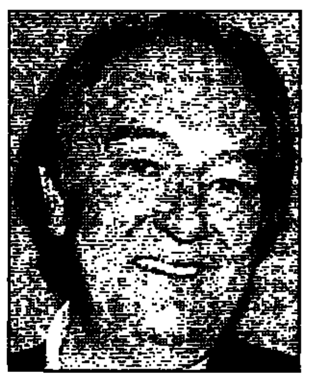
From Quentin Letts in New York

BRITISH theatre had its second success on Broadway in two weeks when Michael Gambon, star of the Royal National Theatre, scored a bullseye on his New York debut in David Hare's *Skylight* alongside Lia Williams.

Local critics yesterday raved about the "brilliant Brit", as the New York *Daily News* described the veteran actor.

The critical praise is all the more notable for the fact that Gambon spurns the star system so beloved by Americans. Furthermore, his elastic, potato-like facial features contradict the received wisdom in America that actors should resemble Adonis.

The success comes after acclaim for the singer Elaine Paige on her Broadway debut with Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard*.



Gambon: spurns the US star system

Armed police stop Kenyans buying British corned beef

From Sam Kiley in Nairobi

ALARM over "mad cow" disease spread to Africa yesterday as the Kenyan Government impounded tonnes of corned beef believed to have come from Britain and posted armed police at supermarkets selling it.

A consignment of 3.2 tonnes of beef was seized by Mombasa port health authorities, who suspected the tinned meat might have been infected with BSE. The Government then revoked the trading licence for Nakumatt supermarkets, Kenya's second largest chain, forcing it to close outlets, and ordered police with automatic rifles to keep shoppers away from supermarkets in Mombasa, Eldoret and Nairobi, the country's three largest towns.

A government statement said that the corned beef had been brought to Kenya without clearance from the "revelant authorities".

The beef was originally thought to have come from Brazil, but the Kenyans later established that the meat was British.

Nakumatt Holdings, owners of the supermarket chain, placed newspaper advertisements defending itself against accusations that it was importing suspect beef; it claimed that meat had been "manufactured" in Brazil for John West Foods of England and had been packed under "Brazilian government inspection".

No tests have yet been carried out, but the Kenyans have demanded that the beef be shipped back to Britain to "prevent the spread of a potentially fatal disease to animals and humans".

Cheap processed meat, much of it from the European Union's mountains of unsold agricultural produce, has been marketed in Africa for many years, but few locals find it satisfactory.

Kenya's domestically produced beef, reared free-range on wild shrubs, would be the delight of any British consumer because it is cheap (top quality fillet costs about £2.50 a kg) and produced without chemicals, supplementary blood meal feed, or artificial hormones.

Vegetables from Kenya's highland farms fill the shelves of British supermarkets, and Kenya is the world's largest exporter of cut flowers. But government officials and farmers have been prevented from penetrating the European meat market by tariff barriers and the lack of abattoirs which meet EU standards.

"This may be one of the reasons behind the dramatic action taken by the Kenyan authorities," one Western diplomat commented. "There is also often a suspicion that inferior goods are being dumped on African markets."

☐ **Seoul:** Fears of "mad cow" disease are encouraging South Korean beef eaters to switch to pork, exacerbating shortages of pork at a time when exports of the meat are booming, an official said. The Government might have to start importing pork to guard against inflation. *(Reuter)*

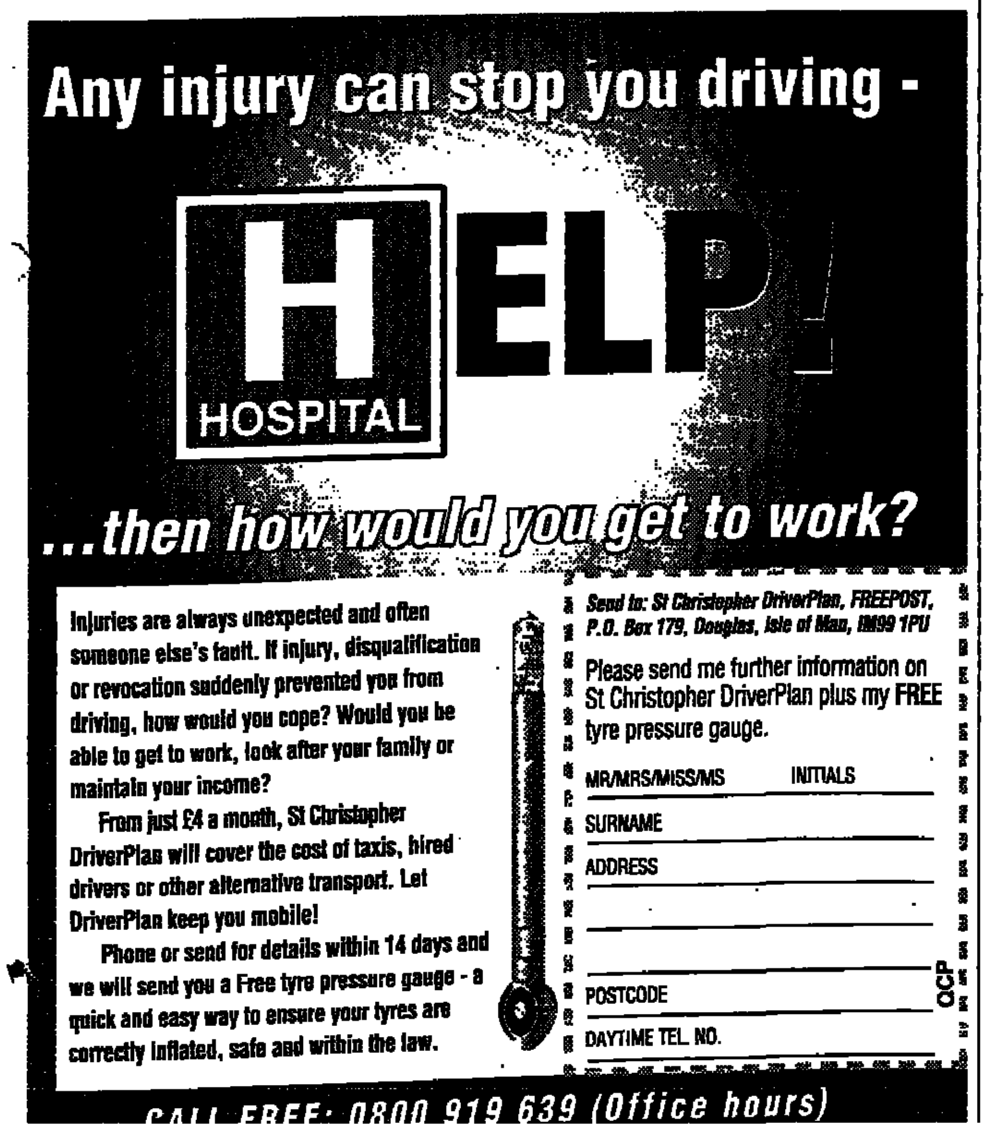
Vasectomies will not curb koalas

From Rachel Bridge in Sydney

AUSTRALIAN wildlife experts yesterday condemned government proposals to give vasectomies and hormone implants to the country's expanding koala population in an attempt to prevent overcrowding, saying that the project was doomed to failure because of the promiscuity of the creatures.

Roger Martin, a research fellow at Monash University in Victoria, said: "Vasectomising just won't work because koalas are highly promiscuous animals. You only have to miss one and he will fertilise all the females right through the summer."

Koala experts suggest that a better solution could be achieved through the use of a sexually-transmitted organism, *Chlamydia*, to control population without causing total infertility.



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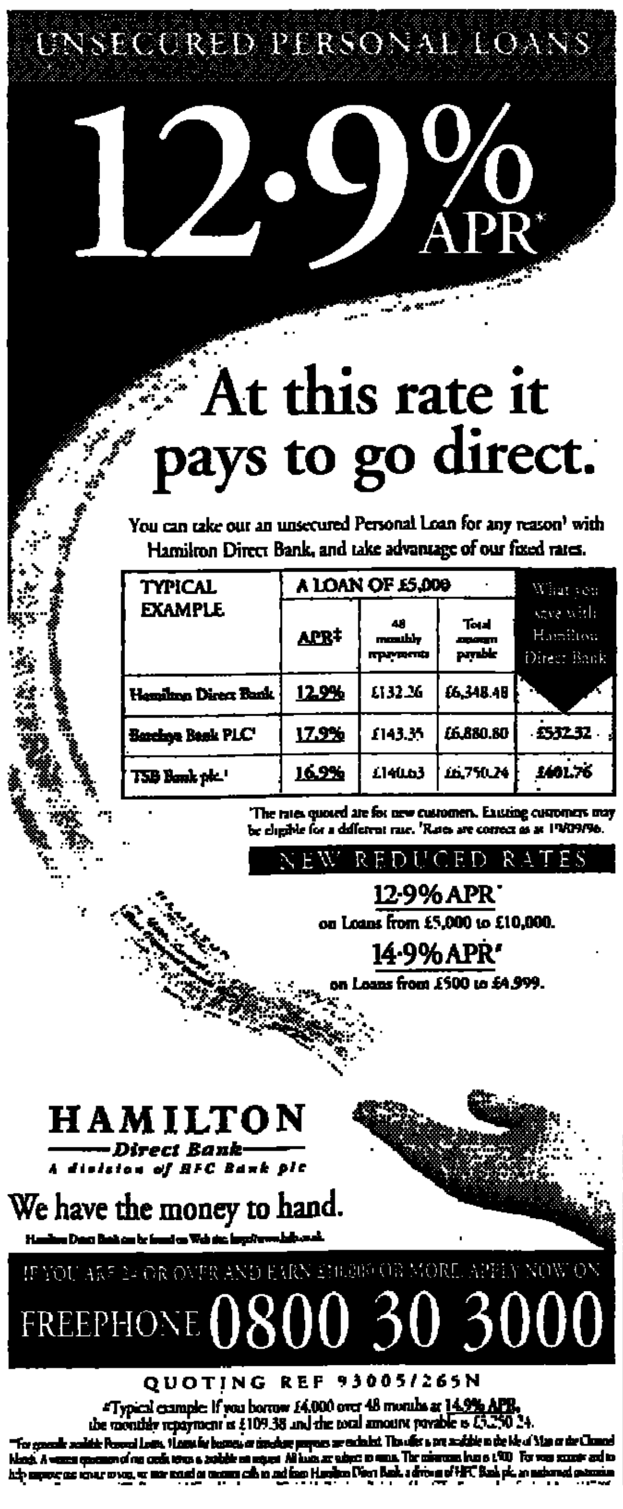

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Floating voters drown out abortive declaration of independence by Bossi's Northern League

Padania mania ebbs

VENICE FILE

by RICHARD OWEN

VENICE has returned to normal after Umberto Bossi's abortive proclamation of "Padania", his Northern League's term for independent northern Italy, to a thin crowd near the Doge's Palace a week ago. The League banners, Alpine hats and menacing green-shirted stewards have disappeared from the waterfront. Venice, intended to be the Padanian capital, is given over again to tourists, the architecture Biennale and the new Tiepolo exhibition.

For Venetians, the hero of the hour is Massimo Cacciari, 52, the left-wing Mayor and former philosophy professor who stayed calm during Padania mania. Venice, in Signor Cacciari's view, is not the capital of a mythical north Italian state: it is a proud city-state and a jewel of European culture with some real and urgent problems to address, including flood defences and pollution.

Venetians wonder whether it was their "philosopher king" who arranged for trains carrying pro- and anti-Bossi demonstrators to be mysteriously held up on branch lines, or who asked passing cruise liners to drown Signor Bossi's waterfront oratory with their blaring klaxons. "Venice Under Siege" was the headline in the *Gazzettino di Venezia*. But the locals were more sanguine. "Bossi belongs in an asylum, with people who think they are Napoleon," said Arrigi Cipriani, the owner of the legendary Harry's Bar, where business was being conducted as usual even during the League demonstration.

The view at Florian's café on St Mark's Square is that Signor Bossi chose the wrong city.

"Cacciari was right," said a waiter. "Venice was the wrong place for their make-believe capital. Everyone comes here. We've seen it all — the film festival stars, the Carnival, the Biennale. We tend to be a bit cynical".

Signor Cacciari's casual dress, left-wing credentials and understated manner conceal a fierce protective passion for the unique city he administers. He told Venetians to stay at home during the Padania rally, and mobilised police in full riot gear at strategic canals and bridges to prevent trouble. It worked, to the relief of the Government in Rome, which had wavered between suppressing the Venice event and hoping it would fizzle out.

Will he stand again when his four-year term expires next year? At times Signor Cacciari yearns to return to academic life. But power has its attractions. Signor Cacciari and Antonio Bassolino, the like-minded and left-wing Mayor of Naples, believe Mayors of Italy's former city-states are "the real leaders of Italy". They are urging Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, to acknowledge this by creating a new ministry to co-ordinate powerful city administrations.

ALBERTO PIZZOLI/SYGMA

Massimo Cacciari, the left-wing Mayor of Venice, believes the city is more than a mere mythical capital

German deaths in Venice

THOMAS MANN and Luchino Visconti have a lot to answer for. Death in Venice, *it appears, has encouraged the idea that Venice is a romantic place in which to end one's life. Psychiatrists there say the number of foreigners who come to Venice to seek death by jumping into the canals or the lagoon is rising, with Germans in the forefront, followed by the Scandinavians. Suicide pacts are also common, as are homosexual suicides. Fabrizio Ramacciotti, a local psychiatrist, suggests Venice is seen as "a beautiful, unreal city at the end of the line", with the lagoon beckoning the suicidal. The "dark mixture of death and water" provides a deadly allure, he says.*

Battle in a palazzo garden

THE big art exhibition in Venice this autumn is the magnificent display of paintings and frescoes by Tiepolo at the Ca' Razzonico. But the gossip in the palazzos is about a rather more recent Venetian collection: that of Peggy Guggenheim.

The Palazzo Venier dei Leoni on the Grand Canal, Peggy Guggenheim's home for 30 years until her death in 1979, is showing an exhibition of graphic works by Max Ernst, who was married to her for one tempestuous year. But Guggenheim's descendants are incensed over what they say is the "insensitive" way the Guggenheim Foundation in New York has treated the eccentric and visionary Venice museum. In particular, her grandchildren are up in arms over the planned sale — apparently for $1 million to a wealthy American collector — of the Palazzo Venier garden, where the great art patron's ashes were scattered.

Rebel of Left seeks Greek power role

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

A LEFT-WING radical who left the Greek ruling Socialist Party (Pasok) last year because he said it was not socialist any more is preparing to play power-broker if the party squeaks through to re-election tomorrow.

Although recent polls indicate no more than 6 per cent of voters supporting the ten-month-old Democratic Socialist Movement (DHKKI) headed by Dimitris Tsovolas, the splinter party is a bigger threat to the Government than the conservative opposition, New Democracy.

Despite surging ahead last week, Miltiades Evert, the New Democracy leader, appeared to lose ground with what critics call inept posturing, such as insisting on overturning a multiparty agreement on media coverage of the campaign. But on the eve of the election, it was still too close to call. A post-poll deal with Mr Tsvolas could swing Greece to the left, politically and economically. A youthful 54, the son of a poor mountain family, he sees his chance for revenge on the champagne socialism of the kind typified by the Papandreou family and hangers-on.

The wooden speaking style and aloofness of Costas Simitis, the Prime Minister, have done much to erode his support. However, he has resisted the temptation to take a swaggering patriotic line, leaving that to the table-thumping Mr Evert, nicknamed "Bulldozer" by his supporters.

Whoever wins tomorrow faces formidable political problems. Neither large party is expected to receive a majority big enough to rule unhindered. If re-elected, Mr Simitis would almost certainly have to co-operate with Mr Tsovolas, who is demanding "radical economic changes". That would mean a direct threat to Greece's hard-won adherence to the Maastricht treaty.

HOW THE PARTIES LINE UP

Greece's 8.9 million voters elect a 300-member unicameral legislature under a reinforced proportional system. The normal government term is four years. The main parties are:

Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) — leader, Costas Simitis
New Democracy (conservative free-market) — Miltiades Evert
Democratic Social Movement (DHKKI) — Dimitris Tsovolas
Politiki Anixi (nationalist) — Antonis Samaras
Communist Party of Greece (KKE) — Aleka Papariga
Synaspismos (Coalition of the Left) — Nikos Konstantopoulos

Other parties: Party of Greek Hunters; Party of Responsible Citizens; National Royal Movement; Chrysi Avghi (Golden Dawn; far right).

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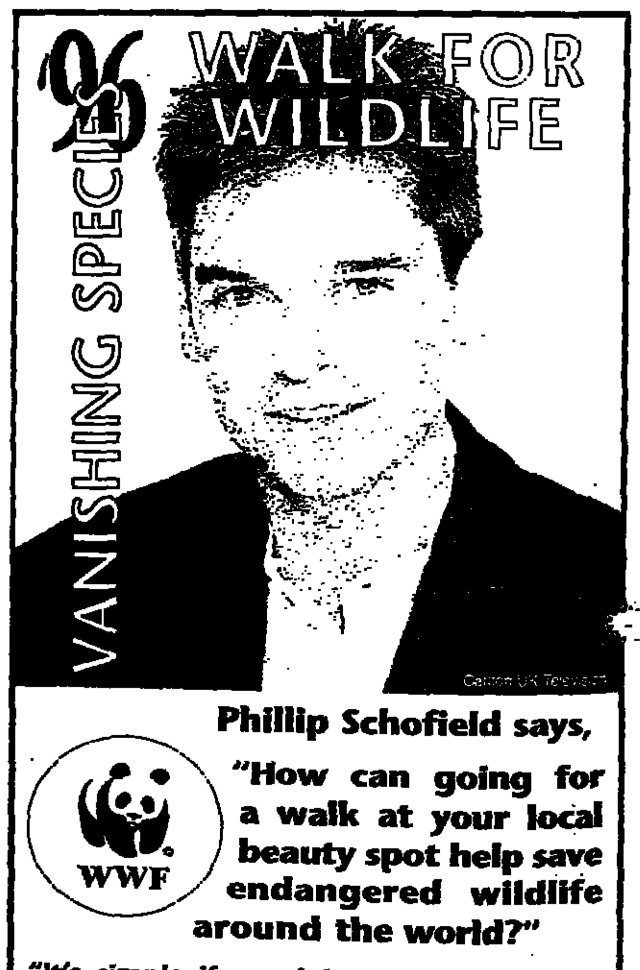

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■ OPINION

Clint Eastwood is only one of many who have learnt the true price of fame this week

■ OPERA

A disaster in Leeds: Opera North travesties Puccini with its new *Madam Butterfly*

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ THEATRE

... but Harold Pinter's new play, *Ashes to Ashes*, is a subtle and deeply disturbing triumph

■ ON MONDAY

Can the Royal Opera rise to the challenge of Wagner? Read Rodney Milnes on *The Ring*

Hard day at the publicist's, dear?

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

For once, Channel 4 has not gone far enough. Now that's a sentence I never thought I would write. But it is true. Next month the company that does for tasteful television what Liam Gallagher does for Anglo-American relations will launch a series called *The Fame Factor*, to explore "the darker side of stardom". You know the story: "rock wives" abandoned when the lads go philandering; child-stars grown up to be ugly nonentities; temptations; excesses; tantrums; addictions. Just an average morning in the Vatican, really.

But events have overtaken even the fevered imaginations of Channel 4's producers. Here is *The Times*'s cut-out-and-keep guide to some real-life "stresses" that have kept celebrities in the limelight this week. But remember, readers: don't try these strategies at home! At least, not unless you have a fully-trained publicist standing by.

1. The "how boring to be sexy" syndrome. Beautifully expressed last week by Martin Shaw, an actor who gets very upset when people remember him for playing a ludicrous pocket action-man in *The Professionals*, rather than for all the Meaningful Drama he has undertaken since. As he told the London *Evening Standard*, the adulation in those macho days was terribly *tiresome*, darling. "I felt appropriated in the deepest sense and loathed it. That stuff doesn't happen any more. When you're past 40 that manic sexual fan energy begins to depart."

Do you know, Martin, I've begun to notice that as well! It's been several weeks now since I was properly appropriated by a burst of manic sexual fan energy. Quite a relief, really; it can be embarrassing on the Tube.

2. "Do you feel lucky, punk? Well, do you?" Just a few of the words it is wiser not to utter in court if you are a very rich star being sued by a former lover who claims that you behaved somewhat less gallantly than the heroes you play on screen. Another unhelpful phrase for your appearance in court might be: "Go on, pull the trigger; make my day." Poor old Clint. You found it much easier to solve problems when you were Dirty Harry, didn't you?

3. Last year's model. One moment you are Claudia Schiffer, the most highly-paid fashion model in the world. The next, well, you're 26. Finished. Washed up. Has-been. Passée. Presenting crockery demonstrations on the shopping channel — if you are lucky.

Yes, it's tragic but true. Last year the great fashion houses were scrabbling to hire the fragrant fräulein with the big hair. No preposterous *création* was considered properly displayed until it had been animated with a winsome wiggle from the delectable Düsseldorfian *derrière*.

Now they are queueing to stick the knives in. "She is starting to look haggard," said one Tomo Delaney, "London fashion agent", this week. "Claudia is part of another fashion, another time," echoed Karl Lagerfeld. And Jean Paul Gaultier added his own acidic coda: "She represents an old, recycled generation. I don't want to be nasty but she's got no personality." Gosh, what would he say if he *did* want to be nasty? Still, at least the comely Claudia now knows why it's called the catwalk.

4. Queen of people's hearts. You fly from a military airfield in a private jet to attend a quiet funeral on a Greek island — the way one does. The *very last thing* you are seeking is publicity. Yet, by the time you arrive, hundreds of newspapers and television stations have mysteriously learnt of your plans, and a tiny village burial is turned into a ghastly media circus.

Ah, the perils of being Diana, Princess of Wales! It seems that all your attempted acts of anonymous kindness are doomed to be besmirched by the disgraceful intrusions of reporters and cameras. The person who leaks details of such intimate moments should surely be exposed for the rotter that he, or she, is.

5. And finally, why bother to be creative at all? You are Britain's most famous composer of musicals. You have bought theatres, built theatres, refurbished theatres and, most important, filled theatres with merry melody and happy punters. For your industry, your talent, your staying power over several decades, you deserve your place at the top of the entertainment world.

But what's this? Those bounders at *Forbes Magazine* have just published a list of the world's highest-earning entertainers. And guess what, Sir Andrew? You only limp in 14th! Your meagre $50 million estimated gross earnings for 1995 and 1996 put you well behind Jim Carrey ($63 million), a film-star whose decent films to date can be counted on the fingers of one finger. Smoothie magician David Copperfield is even higher up the ladder at $74 million, and — yet more galling — the Beatles (who, let's face it, have not been over-productive of late) are apparently raking in $130 million.

But the real humiliation comes from the top. Earning a tolerable $171 million — or rather more than three times what you are, Sir Andrew — is Oprah Winfrey. Yes, the highest-earning "entertainer" in the world is a woman whose chief talent is to persuade people to reveal their illnesses and traumas for the voyeuristic delight of watching millions. Good grief, it makes one feel quite well disposed towards Esther Rantzen. But that's entertainment, 1996-style.

DONALD COOPER

"A brittle, edgy voice, too monochrome to sustain interest in so long a dramatic role": but Chen Sue is only one of the downfalls of Opera North's *Butterfly*

Moth-eaten

OPERA

Madam Butterfly
Grand Theatre, Leeds

Where to start with a disaster on the scale of Opera North's new *Butterfly*? With the text. Say what you like about Puccini, you can't deny his stagecraft. *Butterfly* was probably the most challenging opera he wrote as far as structure and tone are concerned, and after its initial failure he worked hard to get it right, through the process of revision.

About 20 years ago, the Great East Berlin Opera Factory constructed a theory that Puccini was pressured by his publishers into revising the score, turning it from a swingeing indictment of American imperialism into an anodyne romantic melodrama. The composer submitted, watering down a heartfelt political statement in the interests of royalties. It was depressing to see this long discredited bilge regurgitated in the Leeds programme.

What Puccini *did* was recognise that a drama with a pasteboard villain is boring. He adjusted the character of Pinkerton, making it harder for men in the audience to avoid recognising him. He also trimmed the long first act, and tightened and restructured the last scene to include a brief aria of remorse for Pinkerton, revisions whose benefits are patent once people start reverting to the original, as happens — rather half-heartedly — in Leeds.

Dalia Ibelhauptaite, the producer, follows the dated line, presenting Pinkerton as a scowling caricature hate-figure with whom any girl would be mad to get involved. Or rather she does at first — he becomes another person later on. She also thinks she knows better than Puccini: revealing Butterfly's child at the start of the second act kills one of the epic moments in operatic literature; the moment when the child should be revealed is also killed by placing Butterfly so far upstage in Oleg Cheintsis's dreary decor that she is virtually inaudible.

Playing the marriage and the love duet in the docks of Nagasaki is not a bright idea — it makes nonsense of what people sing, for one thing — nor is giving Butterfly's mother and uncle prominent silent roles in the second part. The titupping movements for the Japanese are out of a bad *Mikado*, and acutely distasteful. A final coup requires, humiliatingly, a visible stagehand to set it up, and Ibelhauptaite displays throughout only a tenuous hold on basic skills of direction.

The Chinese soprano Chen Sue (Butterfly) has a brittle, edgy voice too monochrome to sustain interest in so long a dramatic role. Mark Nicolson would do nicely in one of the lighter Gilbert and Sullivan tenor parts: whoever thought he should sing Pinkerton needs their head examined. Peter Savidge (Sharpless) looked embarrassed, as well he might given the company, while Liane Keegan had a go at Suzuki but had no one to play against. Clive Bayley was a good Bonze.

Marco Zambello was the rather ordinary conductor, showing no obvious sympathy for the idiom, and the playing was wooden. It was sad — no, tragic — to witness a company with so fine a record responsible for something that barely attained acceptable professional standards.

RODNEY MILNES

Pinter finds himself in the soul of a woman

THEATRE

Ashes to Ashes
Ambassadors

If modern drama has produced a more disturbing set of characters than Harold Pinter's men, they can only be Pinter's women. The extremes are Ruth in *The Homecoming*, the professor's wife who finds fulfilment and power in prostitution, and Sally in *Night School*, the demure teacher who doubles as a nightclub hostess. But there are others, too, who combine sexual charisma with a tantalising, troubling elusiveness; and, when the definitive Pinter history appears, Rebecca in his brilliant if difficult *Ashes to Ashes* will surely figure high among them.

When Sylvia Plath wrote that "every woman adores a fascist, the boot in the face, the brute, brute heart of a brute like you", she was addressing an imagined father. But she might have been talking of Lindsay Duncan's abstracted yet intense Rebecca, part of whom yearns for the howl of police sirens and hankers for the fantasy lover who made her kiss his clenched fist, then forced her on to her back, legs open. To her, he is clearly far more potent and real than her husband, Stephen Rea's Devlin. He talks and even acts tough, but is actually rather like Teddy in *The Homecoming*, an uneasy academic ineffectively trying to reclaim his wife's allegiance and restore her to normality.

Normality? Even the play's location suggests this will be hard to achieve. Pinter's hour-long production coolly unfolds on a grey, spare living-room set at the front of what's still vestigially recognisable as the dress circle of the Ambassadors, the West End playhouse to which the Royal Court's Theatre Upstairs has moved while its Sloane Square headquarters are rebuilt. Nothing is very ordinary, least of all the creamy English rose played by Duncan.

She is a spiky woman, but it is her mind that really teems with thorns. The lover she claims, surely falsely, to remember might have stepped from one of Pinter's politically aware plays. He was, she says, a "travel agent" and "tour guide"; but, if so, it was presumably in the sense that Eichmann was those things. The "factory" he owned, filled as it was with smiling, bowing serfs, sounds like a cellar in Dachau. By way of completing the picture, he strode along station platforms "tearing babies from the arms of their screaming mothers". Indeed, he tore Rebecca's baby from her; or so she declares at the end.

By now, Rea's tense, anxious Devlin is way out of his depth; but depth is, I think, the word. The play has its obscure moments and, occasionally, its mannered ones. But it takes us into a mind ripped apart by dreams, memories and vivid, unearthly images: refugees dragging suitcases along a wintry street, workpeople obediently walking down a cliff and far into the sea. What's maternal in the apparently childless Rebecca — note the Jewish name — is saddened and appalled. Something else in her is fascinated, even attracted by the violence and the horror.

As psychological profiles go, this is dark, dangerous stuff. It will appal some, but it fascinated me. And, whatever the reservations, it confirms what *Moonlight* suggested two years ago. The nation's most original dramatist, so sporadically productive in the 1980s, is back in creative business.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

● *This review appeared in later editions of* The Times *yesterday*

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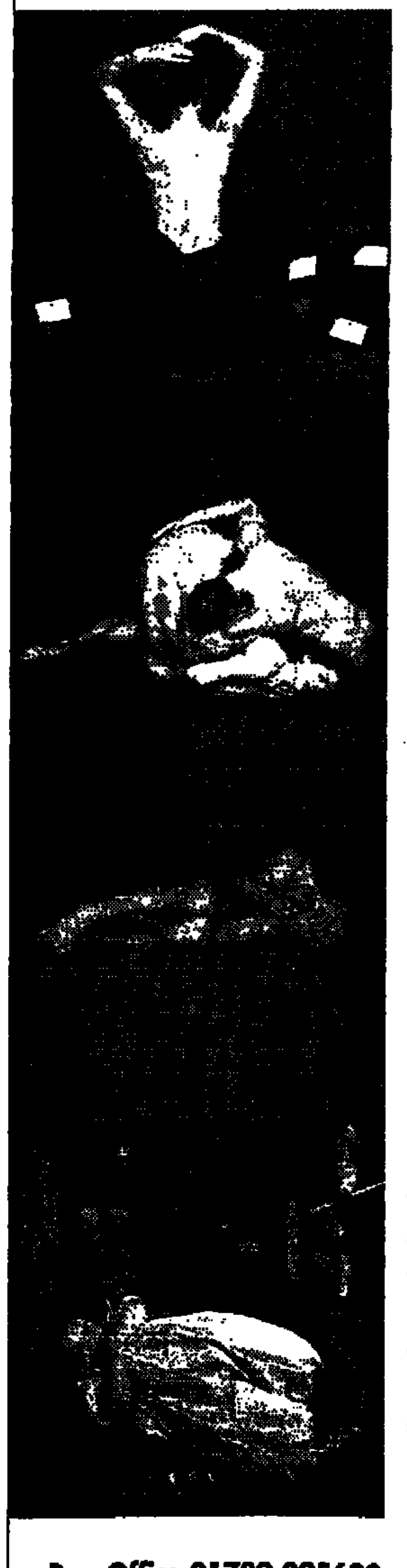

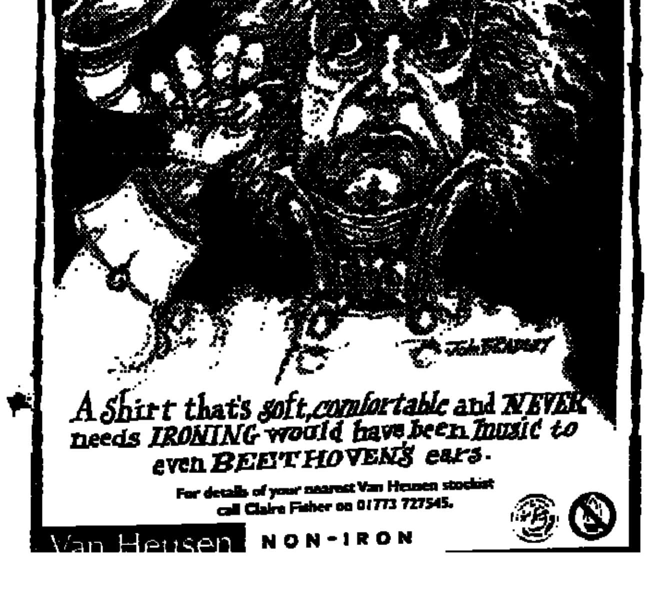
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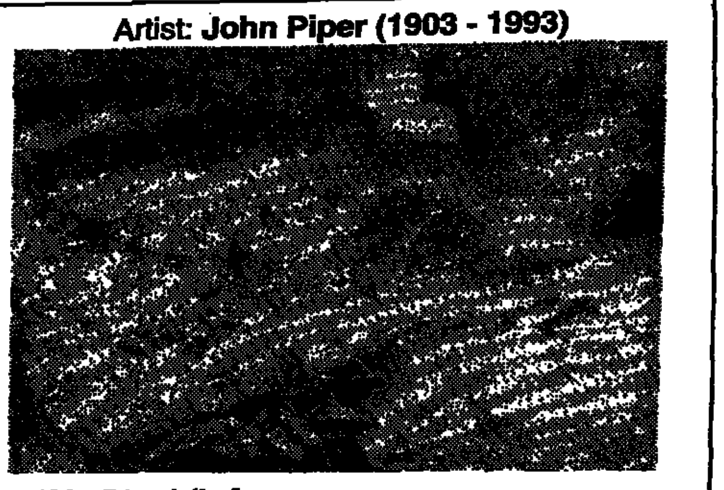

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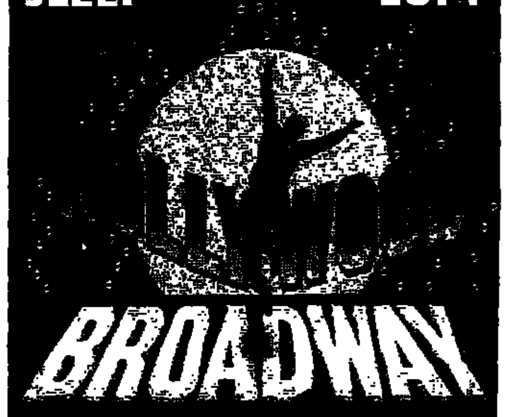

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■ VISUAL ART

A riot of Rococo: Venice celebrates the tercentenary of one of its greatest sons, the painter Tiepolo

■ RISING STAR

Chip off the old block: Michael Cooney, son of Ray, brings his first farce to the West End

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ GOING OUT 1

From a choral festival of Edward Elgar's three great oratorios at the Barbican . . .

■ GOING OUT 2

. . . to Demi Moore's latest film, *Striptease*: the top shows are in Weekend, pages 14 and 15

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

MICHAEL COONEY

Age: 29

Profession: Writer and director for stage and screen.

Forthcoming: *Cash on Delivery*, Cooney's first farce, is currently previewing in the West End. It is about a man diddling the DSS who, just as he decides to go straight and quietly polish off his imaginary lodgers, finds an inspector *on the doorstep*.

Famous surname? Son of Ray, the celebrated farceur.

Paternal helping hand? His father is indeed directing *Cash on Delivery*. Cooney happily acknowledges his debt to Ray, whose plays he has watched in rehearsals since he was tiny and who has encouraged his son to try his hand at farce.

His own man: Cooney has been forging a career for himself in Los Angeles. A film version of his stage play *Murder in Mind* has just finished shooting in America, starring Nigel Hawthorne. *Point of Death*, which premiered in Liverpool last year, is now being cast for a West End transfer.

Lucky break: Cooney did not walk straight into authorial success. "I failed every English exam there was," he says. Later, working at a ski resort, he passed a camera shop and decided to be a photographer, then switched to the other side of the lens as a model, then (emigrating to America) as an actor. Finally he slipped off-screen again to write scripts. Hitting the big time was not easy in Tinseltown. Giving up hope, Cooney flew back to Britain. The phone rang. It was Hollywood. Could he write a screenplay by Saturday?

Family comedy: Currently he is staying in the cottage next to his parents' house, "but we don't walk around saying 'Whoops, vicar' and dropping our trousers". He thinks that, if he has inherited humour from his father, he also has a dark side from his mother, Linda, an actress turned artist.

Ambition: Popular appeal.

Other activities: "Whenever I have any time, I write. There is a two-year diary on the office wall in LA. Under March 1997, my friends have written 'Michael, get a life.' "

KATE BASSETT

A brush with true genius

Philip Rylands

in Venice joins the tercentenary celebrations of the birth of Tiepolo

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

Riot of Rococo: *The Glorification of Francesco Barbaro* by Tiepolo, "one of the most deft and flamboyant paintbrushes in the history of art"

Raymond Mortimer used to baffle his friends by asking if they knew where in Venice one could see a view of Cambridge. The answer was the Scuola dei Carmini. There, in Tiepolo's *Madonna of the Scapular*, is a descending Madonna attended by an angel casting the thaumaturgic cloth to the kneeling St Simon Stock — an event that took place in Cambridge in the time of Henry III.

Giambattista Tiepolo (1696-1770) was one of the most successful painters Venice had ever known. The third centenary of his birth is now being celebrated in exhibitions in Ca' Rezzonico and the Gallerie dell'Accademia, Venice, and early next year at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Tiepolo stands as one of a triumvirate of great Rococo painters in Europe, with Watteau who was 12 years older and Boucher who was seven years younger. But he alone has always attracted hyperbole. He was "the greatest imaginative painter of the age" (Michael Levey); he painted "the most prodigious corpus of works ever produced by an 18th-century painter" (Donald Posner). He is unstintingly awarded the status of genius.

Nevertheless, as the early works now at Ca' Rezzonico reveal, his virtuosity was achieved with a huge effort of will to overcome modest beginnings and an unpromising phase in which he adopted Piazzetta's palette of browns and dark reds. Among his earliest patrons were the Dolfin family of Venice, and it was for one of their palaces that he painted, in a robust Baroque manner, a series of Roman histories now divided between the Metropolitan Museum and the Hermitage (the latter are on show in Ca' Rezzonico).

The Dolfins monopolised the archbishopric of Udine and it was there, in the 1720s, that Tiepolo painted lighthearted frescoes in pastel shades depicting scenes from the life of Abraham, thus announcing his artistic maturity and the definition of his Rococo style.

Tiepolo painted masterpieces in all shapes and sizes. The larger ones could not be "borrowed" for the exhibitions — the frescoes from Homer, Virgil and Tasso at the Villa Valmarana ai Nani, for example, and *The Banquet of Cleopatra* in Palazzo Labia. But Ca' Rezzonico has two frescoes of its own, and around and under these are hung his ceiling paintings, his altarpieces, his oil sketches, the idylls and mythologies that came from one of the most deft and flamboyant paintbrushes in the history of art. A typical work is a more-or-less oval ceiling of *The Glorification of Francesco Barbaro*.

Tiepolo was the author of some *non plus ultra* effects of illusionism. In the National Gallery in London is his sketch for *The Trinity Appearing to St Clement*, in which the ambition of altarpiece-makers ever since Giovanni Bellini is miraculously accomplished: the figures above the altar come alive and billow into the church itself. In Vivaldi's church in Venice, the Pietà, the acoustics cause the sacred music to reverberate from the ceiling so that Tiepolo's celestial musicians seem to have burst into a trumpeting festival cantata.

Tiepolo painted almost nothing for England. It was not that the Whig aristocrats were averse to the Rococo, or to Catholic painters. Mild xenophobia, the fact that Tiepolo was both busy and expensive, and the occasional European war were probably to blame. One Tiepolo that entered an English collection is *The Finding of Moses*, now at the National Gallery of Scotland.

The autocratic political ideology to which Tiepolo's art gave visual expression dominated the life and thought of Europe, with the exceptions of England and Holland. His decorations were simply the finest examples of a trans-European mode, from Charles Joseph Natoire in Paris to Jacob de Wit in Amsterdam and James Thornhill in London.

Criticism of Venetian painting by the Frenchman Charles Nicholas Cochin in the early 1750s — in effect, impatience with its sublime artifice, its lack of realism — stemmed from the mentality of the Enlightenment. The decline of Tiepolo is the decline of the Rococo and the sunset of the political ideology of the *ancien régime* that he so magnificently celebrated.

● Giambattista Tiepolo, 1696-1996 *is at the Ca' Rezzonico and the Gallerie dell'Accademia in Venice until December 8; and at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York from Jan 21 to April 27.*

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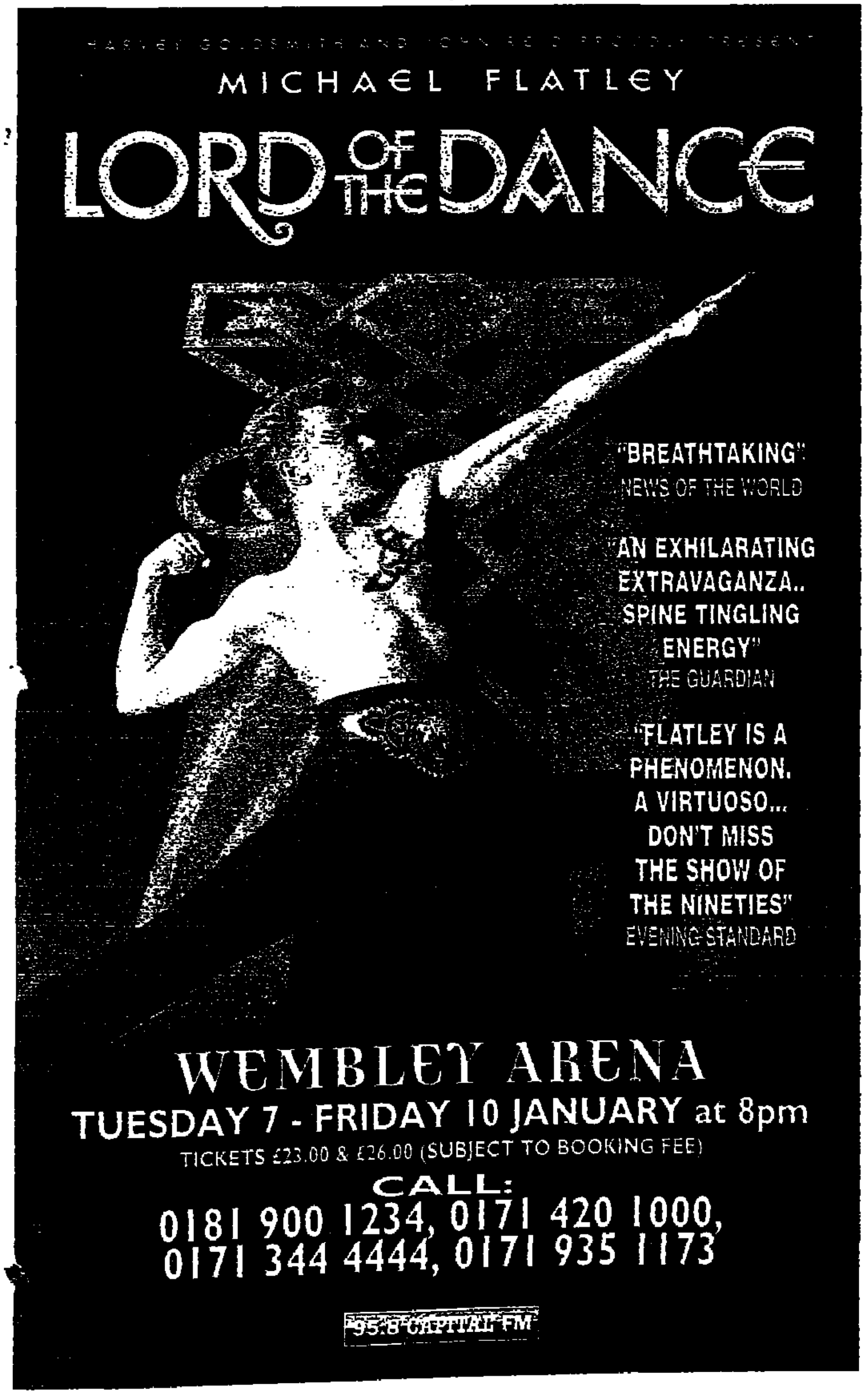

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CHANGING TIMES

Timothy Garton Ash says that the EU is the worst possible Europe — apart from all the other Europes tried from time to time

Two cheers for our continent

Europe, for me, is not Brussels or Strasbourg, Euro-institutions, laws or officials, let alone Euro-politicians. Europe, my Europe, is the old marketplace in Cracow, the gilded gloom of the Café Landtmann in Vienna, Berlin's Bahnhof Friedrichstrasse on a grey winter's evening, mad Naples and suffocating Athens. It is a mosaic of extraordinarily diverse and interesting places, memories, peoples and individual people: some that I like, some that I dislike but to none of which I am indifferent. Diverse though they are, they are nonetheless all bound up in a single larger history, that of Europe.

Knowing Europe thus, it is impossible to be a Euro-sceptic in the way that, say, *The Sun* or Lord Tebbit are Euro-sceptical. But anyone who cares for the real Europe is bound to be deeply sceptical about what is being done in its name. Even before the end of the Cold War, there was a dangerous gap opening up between the real Europe below and the political-legal-institutional "Europe" being built from above by the bureaucratic implementation of policies negotiated between governments, or demanded by lobbyists for special interests of all kinds, with little or no democratic control. Since 1989, the problem has worsened as the EU has failed to respond adequately to the largest historical change in Europe since 1945.

Yet we cannot just tear up the EU and begin again. We have to start from where we are. And any structure of institutionalised co-operation or integration in Europe is bound to be complicated and cumbersome, because Europe itself is so complicated and refractory. Out of the crooked timber of Europe, no straight thing was ever made. The EU is the worst possible Europe, apart from all the other Europes which have been tried from time to time. Conservatives may recognise a classic piece of conservative political wisdom.

The advocacy of "Europe" is often associated with an optimistic, idealistic, even naive belief in human progress, through the benign automaticity of interdependence to a harmonious future of "ever-closer union" — itself sometimes assumed to be the realisation of some inner nature or even Platonic essence of Europe. There is indeed some such naive optimism about, although a good deal less than there was five years ago. My advocacy, however, starts from a diametrically opposed and deeply pessimistic premiss. I assume that this progress is neither automatic nor irreversible, and that Europe could easily revert to its bad old ways of ceaseless and ultimately violent conflict between nations. But why say "could"? In the former Yugoslavia, it already has.

Now it is plainly wrong to argue that the European Union has, in itself, "kept the peace in Europe". Inasmuch as the peace was kept in Western Europe until 1989, this was in the first place because of Nato and the Cold War stand-off between the nuclear-armed blocs. However, it has certainly helped. The EU has been both symbol and catalyst of reconciliation between former enemies in Western Europe. Even in the painful case of policy towards former Yugoslavia, the still feeble post-Maastricht arrangements for co-operation in foreign and security policy and, more importantly, the associated reality of intensive, habitual bilateral contacts did eventually contribute to a less disunited, if not a more effective Western policy. The EU is, and will almost certainly remain, less than a real union. But it is significantly more than just a United Nations for Europe.

Today, a good third of the continent has, at best, very fragile democracies in unstable states. And it is precisely to "Europe" — to the prospect of membership of the EU (and of Nato) — that these new states look as one of the crucial ways to stablilise and strengthen their democracies, just as Spain, Portugal, and Greece did in the 1970s and 1980s.

It may be a paradox that they look to something largely undemocratic (the EU) to strengthen their own democracies, but life is paradoxical. And the alternative in this part of the world, in Central and Eastern Europe, is the failure of democracy, ethnic conflict and war. In a word: Yugoslavia.

This way of thinking about Europe is unusual in Britain, but it is far from un-British. In fact it draws on a much older tradition of Brtish thinking about Europe, one that looks at the continent and our relationship to it not primarily in terms of European unity, as in the continental idealistic tradition, but in terms of order. In my view, the vital attribute of the EU — more than its (disputed) economic advantages — is that it offers a framework of non-hegemonic order. And because this framework is non-hegemonic and is built, albeit undemocratically, between democracies, it is better, and has a better chance of lasting, than previous attempts to build European orders.

So much for the principles. What does this mean in practice? I have argued elsewhere that we should be proposing a second project for the EU. This would consist of serious, detailed proposals both for rapid eastward enlargement and for a more closely co-ordinated foreign and security policy, to equip us to deal better with powers and crises mainly to the east and south of the EU — starting with Bosnia, which is very far from "solved".

The devil is, of course, in the detail — and in anything to do with the EU, the detail is particularly devilish. However, that is not the main problem. The problem is political, and twofold. First, there is already another major project under way: that of monetary union. Secondly, in the present climate, anything that Britain suggests will be looked upon with suspicion. In particular, proposals for enlargement, combined with scepticism about monetary union, will be seen as designs to dilute the Community by enlargement — perfidious Albion trying to sabotage the European enterprise again.

So if we were enthusiastic supporters of the first project, monetary union, and of the accompanying so-called "political union", it would be so much easier, politically, to win support elsewhere in Europe for the second one. But that, in turn, would be easier if the case for monetary union were more compelling. I personally think the doubts about monetary union are so substantial and well-founded that the Government's position of wait-and-see, while quietly attempting to meet the criteria, is reasonable.

What we cannot reasonably do is to steer a course against a project in which many of our continental partners have invested vast capital — political, economic and emotional — then expect them to listen sympathetically while we explain what Europe should really be doing instead.

Here is our dilemma. I am not sure that there is any good way out of it. But I am sure that the best way to try is indicated in the title of the Centre for European Reform. Reform — not uncritical support, not withdrawal, but reform. European both in the sense that we need proposals for the reform of the EU-rope, and in the sense that the proposals should come from a wider range of Europeans, and not just from British Europeans. For we shall get nowhere on our own.

This is an edited contribution to a pamphlet published to mark this week's launch of the Centre for European Reform.

Maxwell: it'll happen again

The law, not the SFO, was to blame, says **Bronwen Maddox**

The sight of a beaming Kevin Maxwell on the steps of the High Court has been a provocation too great for many to resist. Mr Justice Buckley's direction to drop further criminal charges against Robert Maxwell's youngest son has triggered declarations that the entire system of British justice has failed.

The passionate public desire for convictions in the Maxwell affair was understandable. When the publisher's empire collapsed five years ago, it left £4 billion in debts, including a £400 million hole in its pension funds. Although Robert Maxwell towered over his sprawling conglomerate of about 100 businesses, he did not run them alone: an inner circle of favoured employees — and family — was intimately involved.

However, attacks on the Serious Fraud Office and the use of juries in fraud trials are misdirected. They emerge with credit from the Maxwell trial. Criticism would be better focused on the judiciary, apparently uncertain in its approach to fraud cases, on international banks and on financial legislation itself.

For the SFO, the dismissal of charges against Kevin Maxwell could not have been more publicly damaging. It followed not only his acquittal in a first trial, but also the failure of high-profile financial fraud trials in the 1980s.

Yet in the Maxwell case, the SFO had clearly learnt from those fiascos. It brought in squads of first-rate accountants from the start. It briskly distilled stacks of documents and identified the main players and allegations. Unlike the 1980s trials, it faced one overwhelming obstacle: the absence of the main protagonist.

In retrospect the SFO was hampered by the manner in which Mr Alan Suckling, QC, presented the case. His delivery often seemed diffident.Despite that, the SFO decision to bring a second set of charges was entirely justifiable. It has a duty to do so if it believes a case exists.

Similarly, the Maxwell jury's performance is more impressive than popularly supposed. Members were picked for their lack of preconceptions about Robert Maxwell; in effect, some say, that produced a financially unsophisticated jury. But the fact that it delivered an acquittal does not mean that members did not understand the issues. The principles involved were simpler than in 1980s trials which concerned the niceties of stock market trading.

Prosecution and jury aside, however, there is plenty of room for concern about the handling of the Maxwell case. For fear of prejudicing the second criminal trial, the judgment in a 1993 civil case which covered much of the same ground could not be reported until yesterday, but it was strongly critical of Kevin Maxwell. Some argue — although few of them are criminal lawyers — that this perhaps should have been relevant to Mr Justice Buckley's decision to halt a second trial.

Judges also insisted that the prosecution select only a few charges for the first trial. That was a departure from the practice of the 1980s, designed to lighten the burden on the jury. This may have weakened the prosecution, which wanted to establish that Maxwell directors were aware of the true state of the group's finances, or acted in breach of their duties. Those arguments are easier to make by pointing to a long-standing pattern of behaviour. It is unclear whether this approach should be followed in the future.

It is also easy to forget that so much money could not have gone astray without the participation of some of the world's best-known banks. Their defence was that they were unaware of the full picture. It is hard not to ask what they thought they were doing.

Finally, there is the law itself. The exact scope of directors' responsibilities and the role of pension trustees has only partly been clarified. The unresolved question of whether the surplus in a company pension fund belongs to the company or to employees will become a political headache.

In one respect, the legacy of Robert Maxwell is better than feared: most of the missing pension funds have been retrieved, and pensions continue to be paid. The pensioners say they are outraged that Kevin Maxwell walks free, but they are not suffering financially.

However, five years after one of Britain's greatest financial scandals, financial regulation remains imprecise and the ability of the courts to tackle these cases remains unclear. Too little has yet been done to prevent a repeat of the affair.

Debates between Major and Blair are dull — but what if they took a leaf out of Montaigne?

Conversing with the nation

Simon Jenkins

John Major, Montaigne and Tony Blair: the French philosopher said that debate was for experts but conversation for all mankind

La Commedia è comminciata. This week the two party leaders sang their campaign overtures at separate London rallies. John Major performed at the *Spectator* lecture, Tony Blair at the *Times*/Dillons forum. They tested the acoustics and trilled their arpeggios. Both seemed fit and in good voice. They had better be. Six gruelling months lie ahead — heaven help us.

Montaigne's most famous essay distinguished the art of conversation from that of debate. The latter, he said, was for experts. Debate demanded a polarised argument. Those untutored in dialectic might not move from thesis and antithesis towards synthesis, but shoot off to ever greater misunderstanding, even to war. Debate was artificial. Conversation was a natural quest after truth. It welcomed disagreement but did not exaggerate it. "I embrace the man who contradicts me," wrote Montaigne, "for he instructs me . . . I rejoice in sharp exchanges, as love rejoices in the bites and scratches that draw blood." Conversation was a mirror of humanity. Debate was a dangerous intellectual game, prohibited by Plato to the "ill-endowed mind".

Watching Mr Blair and Mr Major perform this week, I dread the forthcoming debate but long for conversation. They are ill-cast as opponents. Both are pleasant, honest herbivores. There is nothing discordant in their political upbringing, no blood on their hands, no bile in their souls. They lack the gravitas of age but pass the prospective-son-in-law test.

As debaters, neither man diverges from the political mainstream, Mr Major because he cannot, Mr Blair because he dare not. They do not differ fundamentally about economy or foreign policy, about tax or public spending, utility regulation, health, education or local government. If Mr Blair is a decentralist, he has yet to show what he means by it (except in Scotland). Neither leader dares to seem more or less European than the other. They are rotten characters for an electoral spaghetti western: two men trying to step on each other's shadow and then crying "ouch".

What passed for a debate this past week was a charade: what is moral about the size of the public sector? As Mr Major introduced the topic on Wednesday, he at least won gasps for effrontery. He lectured a *Spectator* audience against bigger government and higher taxes. That is how they are supposed to lecture him. His Government seizes more of the nation's earnings (43 per cent) than when he was Baroness Thatcher's Chancellor (39 per cent) and much the same as when Labour was in power in 1979 (44 per cent). That very day, his Government was nationalising teacher training in England and Wales and forbidding universities the freedom to raise their own fees. Had the entire Tory era been an exercise in immorality? Mr Major's spin-doctor, David Willetts, explained that this was all to do with economic cycles. This somewhat diluted the moral crusade. The pot may have good reasons for being black, but should surely avoid calling blackness immoral.

When asked for a view, the kettle could not resist. Mr Blair leapt into the kitchen. If big government is immoral, he said, who should now be "donning the sackcloth and ashes"? Morality lay not in the size of government but in its priorities. On that subject, of course, Mr Blair would not be drawn. Mr Blair is not to be drawn on any subject. But he won the debating point.

The exchange augurs ill for the next six months. There is really no argument between these men that can stand the strain of artificial polarisation. They are politically alike, almost interchangeable. In another age Mr Major, the non-graduate, self-made son of south London, would be a surefire Labour leader: Mr Blair, the straight-talking Oxonian barrister, would be a surefire Conservative one. Such are the vagaries of Westminster politics. Yet the requirements of an election campaign will see them wrenched apart, their trivial disagreements puffed up, their personalities and their spouses caricatured and degraded. Plato was right. Debate is dangerous in the wrong hands.

Yet they could have a splendid conversation. Conversation is one of Mr Major's skills, however much his minders are averse to letting him display it. The more intimate the setting, the more natural he seems. The more unscripted his remarks, the more convincing they sound. Televised informally on the Downing Street pavement, he almost persuaded me earlier this month that America was right to bomb Iraq. Most men are bigger on a platform than at close quarters. Mr Major seems to shrink on the public stage. The clichés that are the bane of his speeches fall leaden from his lips.

Mr Blair is a good public speaker, but he too is better at conversation. Had Mr Major's spin-doctors been present, on Thursday, they would have seen a model "conversation" with an audience. Mr Blair spent 90 minutes informally responding to questions. He told me nothing new about Labour policy. Scripted, it would have been mostly waffle. But Mr Blair is now a supreme political performer: "formidable" was what Matthew Parris's review said yesterday. He can read an audience and convey a sense of command. Even as he tired — and began what might have been a Neil Kinnock parody — he never lost his listeners. Mr Major should try the same.

Had the two leaders been in conversation rather than detached debate, the week might have added at least something to the sum total of human wisdom. Conversation is the art of the supplementary question. Come on Mr Blair, Mr Major would say, you would "transform" education, health, transport, social security. I have been struggling with this one for six years — and failed. So what is new? How will you avoid thrashing about like Margaret Thatcher in 1979-81 and then being strapped, tied and hung by the Treasury? Tell us the secret and I might tell you some, too.

Mr Blair would have his turn. You, Mr Major, cannot honestly offer a smaller state or lower taxes than now, or at least none that your party or the country would tolerate. There is no light between us on this and no purchase in deceiving the public. You are addicted to big government and cannot kick the habit — any more than you say I can. Yet we are both seeking a better way of allocating public money. We both want to curb the growth of social security spending. You have failed. Tell me why, so we can all be less frightened of tough decisions.

In my dreams I see them converse, and cannot see what hurt it would do them by doing so in public. Yet two years ago, both leaders agreed that the "debating" mode of Prime Minister's Questions was farcical and must be changed to a more conversational one. Both men requested of the other a new format. Nothing was achieved. The saga showed neither man in a flattering light. It is as if both were frightened of conversation, as if the whole political community were frightened. Debate is easy. Polarisation is the soft option.

The sage of Bordeaux overheard an argument between two shepherds in the marketplace. He was astonished at how clear was their conversation. They knew no dialectic or rhetoric. They did not exaggerate or diverge from the point. They settled their difference and went their ways. "There is more sense in the cackle of fishwives," concluded Montaigne, "than in the public debates of men who profess logic." So God save the art of conversation, and bring it to our rescue.

Greene goddess

FRANK details of the passionate affair between Graham Greene and Catherine Walston, his beautiful lover for 15 years, are to be published for the first time. Catherine's son Oliver, a farmer and journalist, has been commissioned by the publishers Michael Joseph to write the story.

Catherine was married to Harry, later Lord Walston. But in the 1940s she asked Greene to be her godfather when she joined the Roman Catholic Church — his novels, she explained, had helped to bring her into the fold.

She was immensely rich and sexually uninhibited. Soon she and Greene were lovers. Harry Walston had little option but to let Greene form part of this unusual *ménage à trois*: Catherine had made it plain to Harry that if he wanted to keep her, Greene must remain part of her life.

"The book is basically a voyage of discovery to find out how my parents' marriage survived this curious arrangement," says Oliver, who spent holidays with his mother and Greene on Capri between the ages of six and 16. "They were married in a strange relationship which most people would have found impossible."

Oliver will draw on unpublished archive material and Greene's copious love letters. "For four or five years, they kept a double diary. Each would write on facing pages. Each also kept a diary of their dreams."

Novel arrangement: Catherine Walston was Greene's lover

THE TIMES DIARY

● *Norma Major may be about to make her name as an author with her book on Chequers, the Prime Minister's country residence. But her endeavours will not have been helped by John Major's attitude towards the house: he has been telling friends he doesn't like the place — far too formal, he says, a far cry from his cosy modern house in Huntingdon.*

Little Brits

THE SIX Tory grandees who wrote advising John Major this week not to suffer the party's virulent Europhobes ended their letter in buccaneering fashion. "The British instinct is to lead, not walk away," trumpeted Sir Edward Heath *et al*. "Our greatest patriots have never been little Englanders."

A chorus of protests from offended Euro-sceptics ensued. "No little Englanders we," cried John Redwood and his far-right cronies. "True patriots all."

Curiously, Redwood once lived in a house called Little England. "About five years ago, he moved into a house called White Walls in Sonning-on-Thames," explains my source. "He promptly changed the name to Little England." Redwood's office confirmed the tale yesterday, explaining: "It was meant as a joke." Heath is not noted for his humour on these matters, and I doubt very much if he will see the funny side.

● *Lord Longford has been at his campaigning best in recent days. He invited Ann Widdecombe and Baroness Blatch, both Home Office ministers to lunch. He tried to convert Widdecombe to the cause of Myra Hindley and Baroness Blatch to Catholicism. So far, however he has failed on both counts.*

Beam me up

TALK at London's literary parties this week has concerned Ed Victor, doyen of literary agents and *habitué* of The Hamptons, a celebrity playground in Long Island, New York State. A tall man, his stiff gait as he stalked through the crowds of Joan Collins's book launch in a neck-brace lent him the appearance of an arthritic giraffe. At Bloomsbury's 10th anniversary party the following night, he was similarly incommoded.

Victor's home in The Hamptons is an old English barn which he had shipped over there to be reassembled, beams and all. Sadly, the house has one beam too many — for the poor man recently walked straight into one of them and damaged his neck.

"He's definitely got his father's looks"

● *Versatility is proving the hallmark of Ewan McGregor, who played a heroin-addicted youth in* Trainspotting. *McGregor has been signed up to play James Joyce in the film* Nora *(a working title, thankfully), which tells of Joyce's love affair with Nora Barnacle. Filming is to start in Dublin next year.*

Look, See

AS ROMAN Catholics fret about celibacy, monsignori at the Vatican are lamenting the departure of an engaging figure who once brightened their lives in the Holy See.

Catherine: dressing up

Catherine Fairweather, daughter of our former Ambassador to Rome Sir Patrick Fairweather, was a presenter on Vatican Radio but, heartbreakingly, she has returned to England.

Catherine was one of the few non-Catholics working in the Vatican. But so attached to her did the priests become that they made a special presentation to her as a leaving present. A racy white dress, split to the hips. "It's the sexiest item of clothing in my wardrobe," she says.

P·H·S

هكذا من الأصل

THE WORLD TO ROME

The Pope has brought Rome to the world: next the reverse

The shifting story of Roderick Wright from tragedy to scandal is just one small part of the fundamental agenda facing the Roman Catholic Church. Other, larger parts are represented in the Pope's troubled visit to France where he has been greeted by arguments ranging from the status of the 5th-century convert King Clovis to 20th-century details of social policy.

Yet the French agenda too forms an incomplete portrait of the challenges facing Catholicism. While the level of devotion has clearly slumped in its heartlands of Europe and North America, there have been striking advances in the developing world. As a global force the language of crisis is inappropriate. The vocabulary of change, however, is not.

The central problem is for a hierarchy and structure that are tightly based upon Rome and highly centralised in nature. The Church is searching for means of devolution and forms by which it can adapt traditional practices to suit the cultures where Rome's strength now lies. Of necessity this suggests a much less authoritarian style; but any new style will have to coexist with the primacy of the pontiff.

It is the Third World that is the true driving force behind the celibacy dilemma. The demand for Catholicism far outstrips the supply of priests in many parts of the planet, leaving massive congregations with no real leadership. Inevitably the issue of what can be done to combat this is raised: how much of the problem comes from the requirement of chastity? This touches on wider terrain. The Second Vatican Council sought to promote a more active role for the laity while at the same time leaving the traditional position of the priest intact. Thirty years on, that essential concept has not taken full root.

To this is allied the question of liturgy. Many practitioners believe that the mystery and beauty of language once so closely associated with the Mass has been badly compromised in the aftermath of Vatican II. Some hanker after the full restoration of the Latin rites. Others argue that the shift was correct in principle but imperfect in execution. Recent attempts at the revision of liturgy has not produced full consensus. What is required is flexibility. But, like decentralisation in formal structure, that does not come naturally to a faith based on unity, uniformity and universality. For much of the past 2000 years these elements have been a source of great strength. Without adaptation they may not be so in the future.

Then come the divisive moral matters. In France, as elsewhere, there is a long list of modernity's by-products; legal abortion and divorce, easy birth control, homosexual rights and equality for women, all with vocal proselytisers. Some of these issues, including the sanctity of human life stand central to the very purpose of the credo. The form of permissible family planning is less linked to core ethical principle. The barrage of criticism that the Pope endures comes as much from his seeming reluctance to accept, let alone encourage, discussion of any of them, as from his personal philosophy. Again, at present, debate does not flow as comfortably as it might.

Through his relentless willingness to travel John Paul II has accentuated the presence of the new church membership; but the influence of that membership will have to be addressed by his successor. The present Pope has appointed virtually all of the College of Cardinals that will make the succession choice. With each day of his advancing age, the prospects of the 69-year-old Cardinal Carlo Martini, Archbishop of Milan and favourite of many reformers, slightly worsen. Despite that, the need for change, and its sophisticated management, is unavoidable. John Paul II has brought Rome to the world. The next Pope will have to bring the world to Rome.

FRIENDS IN TRANSYLVANIA

Where alliances are not what they may seem

Ever since the turbulent days of Vlad the Impaler, Transylvania has been a synonym for a Balkan backwater where midnight murders are hushed up by a cowed peasantry. Six years ago these murders took place in full daylight on a scale that began a revolution. The uprising in Timisoara by the oppressed Hungarian minority was the catalyst for Romania's general uprising against the Ceausescu dictatorship. History has left millions of Hungarians outside Hungary's present borders. Two million of them live uncomfortably in north-western Romania seeking greater autonomy for schools, local authorities and in the use of Hungarian. But hopes that Ceausescu's death would lead to an improvement in living conditions and human rights were premature: the fall of communism unleashed suppressed ethnic animosity that led, months later, to anti-Hungarian riots and nationalist violence.

The signing, therefore, of a treaty between the two countries this week guaranteeing full minority rights for the Hungarians, the inviolability of borders and close co-operation between Budapest and Bucharest, seems a welcome piece of news. For Gyula Horn, the Hungarian Prime Minister, there was a particular satisfaction: eight years ago, as Foreign Minister, he tried vainly to persuade Ceausescu to curb the wave of arrests among the Hungarian minority, stop the demolition of monuments and restore access to higher education.

Trade and political relations between the two countries have been improving in recent years, but each Government has a particular need now to show success in dealing with the other. Budapest has been accused of giving aid and encouragement to secessionist groups in both Slovakia and Romania during the past few months by sending government officials into both to endorse autonomy claims by ethnic Hungarians. Mr Horn needed quickly to smooth the inevitable waves this caused. The Romanians, for their part, have a presidential election in November, and the Government does not want to give its opponents any pretext for nationalist agitation.

Beyond this, however, there is a more important factor operating in both countries: the prospect of Nato membership. Neither can afford a grumbling quarrel with its neighbour if its application is to be credible; each believes it can strengthen its case by promising to uphold the application of the other — as, indeed, the treaty spells out. It would be tempting, therefore, to see the prospct of membership in both Nato and the European Union as two goals for former communist countries that will be more effective in persuading governments to tackle underlying ethnic tensions. Such incentives should be more effective than any human rights declarations or resolutions.

This hope may be a chimera. Romania is still suspicious of Hungarian intentions, both military and political. Romanians are convinced, correctly, that Hungary is likely to be among the first wave of new Nato members, whereas they will not be taken in for years, if at all. The Romanians fear this would give Hungary, with access to Nato's superior technology, a qualitative military edge, as well as the political backing of fellow Nato members should relations degenerate again. The Hungarian minority might then become a Nato "fifth column". Romania also fears that whatever the new treaty pledges, Hungarians will be tempted to use the threat of a veto of Romanian membership to extract new concessions for its minority across the border. With Nato membership likely to set up new divisions in Eastern Europe, the prospects for such treaties ending regional quarrels over minorities are not, unfortunately, as bright as might be hoped.

WHEELIE RADICAL

The Liberals are the stunt riders of politics

The Liberal Democrats have launched a consultative paper hymning the virtues of the motorbike as an alternative to the car. It is an inspired move. A party that seemed in danger of riding the unicycle of irrelevance into the gutter of inconsequence has found a vehicle to appeal to the adventurous, one that might even overtake the lumbering juggernauts of Right and Left.

The motorbike is a quintessential Liberal machine. It is small, it changes direction quickly when it meets obstacles, it loses its sense of balance unless there's a strong hand at the controls and the number of impressive British models has been declining steadily since the Thirties. Although in David Lloyd George they had the archetypal Easy Rider, there has always been more of the air of the TT races than the Hell's Angels.

There have been almost as many false dawns for the British motorcycle industry since the war as there have been abortive Liberal revivals. In both cases mergers did nothing to improve the basic product.

Undoubtedly, the lowest moment for the indigenous motorcycle industry was the establishment of the Meriden Co-operative, an idealistic exercise in avoiding harsh market realities which recalls, in its prelapsarian innocence and faith in human goodness, the Liberal Democrats' current tax proposals.

The new Liberal Democrat enthusiasm for the motorcycle is fuelled by an impeccably unleaded concern for the environment. The smaller engines of these machines belch fewer noxious molecules into the air than the average motor car, or come to that, politician. Also, because the motorbike — like the Liberal Democrats' turbo-powered leader Paddy Ashdown — is all engine and no chassis, it takes up less space when parked and frees land for more fruitful use.

Any contemplation of the Liberal Democrats' future cannot ignore the talk among the Westminster grease monkeys about a merger between sleek new Labour and Paddy's party. Although inevitably junior partners, the Liberal Democrats deserve better than to be relegated to the sidecar beside Tony's Triumph.

The third party has shown a fine willingness to adopt positions which other politicians, more narrowly interested in ephemera such as winning elections, have been too cowardly to consider. Such bravery deserves respect. The Liberal Democrats are the Evel Knievels of British politics, and they deserve as much credit as any stunt rider who makes leaps in the dark.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Learning from the Maxwell case

From Mr Robert Rhodes, QC

Sir, The humane decision of Mr Justice Buckley to stop a further long trial in the Maxwell case (reports and leading article, September 20) is to be applauded, and should not cause the heavens to fall. It should not have any effect on the mode of trial of fraud cases. No man should be required to undergo the strain of a further long trial after a previous trial lasting six months or more, especially where that hearing had dealt with the most serious allegations of criminality in the case.

The decision of the Serious Fraud Office to seek to pursue a second trial after the acquittals in the first, very long, trial contrasts with its commendable conduct in the rather shorter Barlow Clowes case (reports, February 11, 1992).

There the indictment had also been severed and the more serious charges (involving theft of investors' funds) were tried over some 112 days.

At the conclusion of that trial, with the conviction of two defendants and the acquittal of two others, the prosecution immediately dropped the charges (principally involving allegations of "share ramping") that would have formed the subject of a second, long, trial against them although (as in the Maxwell case) other defendants who had not been in the first case were also to have stood trial.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT RHODES,
Littleton Building,
3 King's Bench Walk North,
Temple, EC4.
September 20.

From Mr Jonathan Goldberg, QC

Sir, I am not ashamed to admit that I am usually baffled by the detail, the complexity and the sheer weight of reading material with which I am confronted when I set out to defend in serious fraud trials, as I not infrequently do. I therefore readily infer the difficulty of a lay jury trying to grapple with the same material. Moreover, I am paid to read it and re-read it months before the trial by way of preparation, whereas they come to it cold.

Fortunately for me, I am invariably assisted through the minefield by an expert witness, normally an accountant, with whom I can consult so that difficult financial concepts can be explained to me in simple terms and, hopefully through me, to the eventual jury.

Often the real issue at the heart of the fraud turns out to be relatively simple, and one which a lay jury is well equipped to decide. The problem in these cases is seeing the wood for the trees.

Surely the answer would lie in a compromise which in part exists already in continental trial systems. A professional assessor from a highly qualified panel, such as an accountant, stockbroker or banker, depending on the nature of the fraud alleged, should sit as the twelfth juror. He would have the same rights in all respects as the remaining 11 jurors, but would be well able to guide them through the technicalities in the way my expert guides me.

There is no real danger of their attaching too much weight to his views because at the end of the day they can outvote him if they wish. Under our existing system of majority verdicts in criminal trials ten of the 12 will produce the verdict either way.

In this way we will not throw the baby out with the bathwater, as those who seek to abolish juries in such cases would do.

Yours sincerely,
JONATHAN J. GOLDBERG,
3 Temple Gardens, Temple, EC4.
September 20.

Ashdown on Brussels

From Mr Michael Kirkbride

Sir, Paddy Ashdown identifies two internal threats to the European Union ("Brussels: too bossy for its own good", September 17): the "little nation-staters" and the "big nation-staters". He also proposes four objectives for setting the Union "on a new track": the simplification of existing treaties, a stronger European Court of Justice, putting a stop to "creeping EU legislation" and the introduction of a right of secession for discontented member states.

All this is excellent, and I write as a committed European; but one would have liked to hear a little more of how these objectives can be achieved.

It seems to me that the Union is in a bind; there is an urgent need for constitutional reform, but within the institutions of Europe there is little or no motivation to undertake it; the overriding authority of the Council of Ministers needs to be broken, along with the entrenched power of the Commission to meddle and to manipulate; and the powers of the European Parliament over them both should be extended and its relationship with the national parliaments redefined.

But can one imagine Mr Santer, Chancellor Kohl, President Chirac, and Prime Minister Major giving up power? Or Mr Blair, for that matter? I should like to know from Mr Ashdown how he thinks this circle can be broken.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL KIRKBRIDE,
Orchard Cottage,
Knole, Langport, Somerset.
September 18.

Value of volunteering in a 'gap year'

From Mr Andrew Rowe, MP for Mid Kent (Conservative)

Sir, Your leader of September 17 on the gap year raised a matter of policy which deserves more attention than it gets: the place of voluntary service in the development of young people.

National military service has been credited with instilling a sense of discipline and responsibility in the young people who went through it. Whether that was true or not, the system cannot be reintroduced in the late 1990s. On the other hand, there is a mass of evidence that young people who have had the opportunity to serve others in a voluntary capacity emerge from the experience greatly enriched.

Home Office research has shown that being given responsibility for someone less fortunate than themselves is one of the most effective ways of diverting young offenders from a life of crime.

The experience of community service volunteers over the past 34 years has demonstrated again and again that young people with very little self-esteem can be turned into self-confident, responsible adults by properly supervised and supported voluntary work on behalf of others.

On June 6, 1995, when launching the "Make a Difference" initiative, the Home Secretary acknowledged this by promising that every young person who wanted to do so would be given a chance to volunteer.

Unfortunately, this pledge has so far been implemented only minimally and the initiative, which has so much potential, has made disappointingly slow progress.

What is needed is a national programme to enable young people, whether students or not, to serve as volunteers in properly structured projects and thus grow up realising that service to others develops all sorts of qualities which will stand them and the nation in good stead all through their lives.

Such a programme will only succeed if government at national and local level, employers, educational institutions and parents see it as valuable and build it into their expectations.

It is about time that the widespread demand for such a national initiative became a priority in government policy.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW ROWE,
House of Commons.
September 17.

From the Executive Director of Community Service Volunteers

Sir, Through Community Service Volunteers (CSV) thousands of young people already spend their gap year "putting into practice their commitment to the environment or concern for the aged" in the UK.

Today more than 3,000 young people, many in their gap year, invest up to 12 months to volunteer to help people in need, and our "citizen service" demonstration projects in Southwark, Sunderland and Cardiff are proving both that young people are willing to give their time and that there is work for them to do.

Yours faithfully,
ELISABETH HOODLESS,
Executive Director, CSV,
237 Pentonville Road, N1.
September 17.

From the Chief Executive of Raleigh International

Sir, I could not agree more with the sentiments echoed in your editorial. A gap year can be good or bad. Failing to use the time well will do little to enhance the chance of a place at university; but a well planned gap year may be looked upon favourably.

However, I was concerned to read a young woman's impressions of Raleigh International (Features, "I won't skin rabbits", September 17). Over the past 12 years 12,000 young people have taken the opportunity, through Raleigh, to work in remote and challenging locations of the world on projects of lasting benefit, developing their team work and other life skills. We don't ask them to skin rabbits.

Yours sincerely,
JAMIE ROBERTSON-MACLEOD,
Chief Executive,
Raleigh International,
Raleigh House,
27 Parsons Green Lane, SW6.

Surgeons' standards

From the President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England

Sir, Dr Stuttaford ("Surgeons opt for European union", Medical briefing, September 18) is right to say that British surgeons, although now specialising in a narrower field, are, by their earlier core training, also in a sense generalists — a fact recognised traditionally by the diploma FRCS.

In future surgeons will become Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons only after, rather than before, a long period of specialist training and subsequent success in an examination conducted jointly with our sister colleges in Scotland and Ireland.

It is true that minimum standards have now been agreed across the European Union. Generally, though, training is longer in this country and second to none. Its content has not been compromised by any European Directive.

Of course, there will now be competition for consultant posts from those trained abroad to the basic standard required by EU agreement. I am not worried by our acceptance of these baseline continental standards for I share with potential patients the reassurance that every appointments committee will include an assessor from the Royal College of Surgeons.

In no field do minimum standards necessarily equate with appointment. Open and fair competition for prized consultant appointments are the ultimate safeguard.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY SWEETNAM,
President,
The Royal College of
Surgeons of England,
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.
September 19.

Quality of Radio 3

From Mr Jean-Norman Benedetti

Sir, Perhaps Radio 3 might stand a better chance of survival (article, Arts, September 18) if it were to question the assumption that it is "the envy of the world".

Having spent most of the summer in the Dordogne I was able to benefit from France Musique and France Culture, both of which broadcast 24 hours a day. At their best, they seemed to me to achieve the standard of the old Third Programme, in a way that Radio 3 no longer does.

There is a coverage of literature, history, theatre and philosophy not to be found here. Programmes are presented in clear, literate French and broadcasters are allowed to speak in the language, however complex, that is appropriate to their subject.

The BBC seems to have become convinced that presentation is more important than content. Conforming with what is now, surely, an out-of-date populism, Radio 3 presenters string together colloquial expressions in a patois that nobody actually speaks, or they explain so carefully they sound like a junior schools broadcast of the 1930s.

In either case they sound condescending, and I cannot imagine the young people they are supposed to be hoping to attract are either impressed or taken in. Indeed, by its refusal to insist on clear, unaffected, educated speech, the BBC has in my view contributed to the educational crisis that afflicts this country.

Yours sincerely,
JEAN BENEDETTI,
112 Goldhurst Terrace, NW6.
September 18.

No easy answers

From Mrs Anne Baring

Sir, Science sometimes appears to be so limited in its understanding of human needs, so dogmatic in its statements about the nature of reality and so contemptuous of the non-rational that inevitably it polarises society into two camps: those who accept the mechanistic paradigm science offers and those who do not (British Association report, September 11; see also letter, September 18).

The fascination with the paranormal can perhaps be understood as an instinctive attraction to the mystery of life and a longing to explore whatever science has dismissed as not worthy of exploration.

The belief often promoted by science that life can be manipulated and controlled for human advantage is an attitude that many people find arrogant and repellent, not to say immature.

They feel closer, perhaps, to J. B. S. Haldane's suspicion "that the universe is not only queerer than we suppose, but queerer than we *can* suppose".

Yours faithfully,
ANNE BARING,
White Lodge, Grange Park,
Alresford, Hampshire.
September 19.

Primogeniture

From Mr Alan Clark

Sir, Lord St John of Fawsley is reported in today's paper (early editions) as saying that a change in the law of primogeniture "should" be applied to "the land-owning classes" before being applied to the Crown.

Aside from its peremptory tone, this judgment offers problems of definition. Why not include artisans? What about bankers, or garagistes?

John Maynard Keynes, like Lord St John unmarried but certainly of equal eminence, dismissed the concept of long-term planning with his notorious aphorism "... *in the long run* we are all dead".

Some of your readers may feel that opinions — still more, legislation — would carry greater weight when coming from those with descendants of their own.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN CLARK,
Saltwood Castle, Kent.
September 17.

Weekend Money letters, page 40

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

To think, or just to seem to think?

From Professor I. Aleksander, FEng

Sir, Before Matthew Parris retires to feed his ducks (article, September 16) he should accept some congratulations for having put his finger on the conundrum about conscious machines: we cannot prove that machines are conscious, but then we realise that the consciousness of our best friends cannot be proved either. This is very depressing.

The reason I dare to work on consciousness in artificial organisms is because I am interested not in whether a machine might *seem* conscious to a casual observer (which is just the tip of the iceberg), but what manner of machinery might be *convincing*.

Parris's program for getting machines to say "I" regularly and causing them to pause while they think is not quite the kind of thing I am looking for. They will only be convincing if they are not programmed but are constructed in a way that allows them to build up a real sense of "identity".

People are all made in pretty much the same way. Animals too are not all that different — the neurons and hormones and neutrotransmitters and microtubules are all there perhaps in slightly different mixtures. We, as yet, do not know how it all gels to make consciousness.

It is important that we should know, if only because distortions of consciousness are of major medical concern. But that's where machines come in — they help us to find out. Machines are there to test hypotheses and support experiments which could not be done on living creatures.

The excitement comes not from the ambition to be the next Dr Frankenstein, but from the discovery of principles which machines and living organisms might share.

In fact the person who unveils the first conscious machine might be greeted by a pronounced scientific yawn.

Yours sincerely,
IGOR ALEKSANDER
(Professor of Neural Systems
Engineering),
Imperial College of
Science, Technology and Medicine,
Department of Electrical
Engineering,
Exhibition Road, SW7.
September 16.

Art of oratory

From Mr Peter Cadogan

Sir, Peter Riddell tells us ("The old orators are still the best", September 14), that "Gladstone managed [to speak for two or three hours] with minimal preparation".

Up to a point. Gladstone was probably the only political leader to have designed a purpose-built oratorical tower in which to rehearse his speeches, which he had specially built onto his study in Hawarden Castle. It contains a spiral iron staircase leading to an iron platform from which he could thunder to his heart's content. The study and the tower have been kept exactly as he left them.

Yours truly,
PETER CADOGAN,
3 Hinchinbrook House,
Greville Road, NW6.
September 15.

Perils of horse power

From Dr Frederick O'Dwyer

Sir, In addressing the correlation between road fatalities and the advent of the motor car, Mr Angus Duncan (letter, September 12; see also letter, September 6) quite reasonably questions the proposition that horse transport was safer "per journey mile".

Indeed, it would seem that the age of horse power encompassed a whole range of perils, including that supposedly modern phenomenon, "road rage".

The *Calender of the State Papers Relating to Ireland* (published in 1908) reproduces a report sent from Dublin in 1667 of a particularly extreme example concerning a dispute about "presedency" or precedence

> for the Earl of Clancarty being in his coach, accompanying the funeral of Sir Thomas Harman, who commanded the Horse Guard lately, was met in a crowded street by the Earl of Roscommon in his coach, who, as eldest Earl, endeavouring to take place and being resisted by the Earl of Clancarty's footmen and coachmen, who could not possibly remove their coach out of the way at that time, came out of his coach in great heat and, falling amongst the footmen, wounded two or three of the Earl of Clancarty's footmen and killed one of his coachhorses.

Yours sincerely,
F. M. O'DWYER,
12 Glendoher Close,
Rathfarnham, Dublin.
September 17.

From Miss Catherine Lambert

Sir, W. Outram Tristram, in *Coaching Days and Coaching Ways* (1901), his book on 18th-century travel, tells us that although wheels came off and axles broke with depressing regularity there were few records of fatal accidents.

He also quotes the coffee-house gentleman of a slightly later period who remarked: "You are thrown out of a coach and there you are, but if you are thrown out of a railway carriage where are you?"

Yours faithfully,
CATHERINE LAMBERT,
118 Clapham Road, SW9.
September 13.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 20: The Princess Royal this morning opened a new Mobile Bibleworld during the Scottish Christian Resources Exhibition at the Scottish Exhibition Centre, Glasgow, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow (Mr Patrick Lally, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness, Visitor, later visited Strathcarron Hospice, Randolph Hill, Denny, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk (Colonel James Stirling of Garden).

The Princess Royal this afternoon opened the new office of Matthew Gloag and Son Limited, West Kinfauns, Perth, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross (Sir David Montgomery, Bt).

YORK HOUSE
September 20: The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, this morning visited the Looe Lifeboat Station, Seafront Shelter, West End, East Looe, Cornwall.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Plymouth Lifeboat Station, Custom House, Custom House Lane, Plymouth, and the Exmouth Lifeboat House, Esplanade, Exmouth, Devon.

The Duke of Kent this evening attended a B Division, Staff College Camberley 1966 reunion dinner, at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, London SW1.

Royal engagement

TODAY:
The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the London Philharmonic, will attend a benefit concert at Glyndebourne, East Sussex, at 4.15.

Marketors' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Marketors' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr D.G. Thomas; Senior Warden, Dr R.A. Hood; Middle Warden, Mr J. Petersen; Junior Warden, Professor J.A.P. Treasure.

Lady Cullen of Ashbourne

A service of thanksgiving for Lady Cullen of Ashbourne will be held at St Mary's, Cadogan Street, London, SW3, at 11am on October 24.

Alfred Doulton

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Alfred John Farre Doulton, at 5.00pm on Monday, October 14, at St Michael's Church, South Grove, Highgate, N6. For further information please contact Highgate School (0181 340 1524).

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Girolamo Savonarola, preacher and martyr, Ferrara, Italy, 1452; John McAdam, inventor of the road surface of that name, Ayr, 1756; Louis Bonaparte, King of Holland 1806-10, Ajaccio, Corsica, 1778; H.G. Wells, novelist, Bromley, Kent, 1866; Gustave Holst, composer, Cheltenham, 1874; Sir Allen Lane, publisher, founder of Penguin Books (1936), Bristol, 1902.

DEATHS: Virgil, Roman poet, Brundisium (Brindisi), 19 BC; Sir Walter Scott, novelist and poet, Abbotsford, Borders, 1832; Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher, Frankfurt, 1860; Sir Montague Burton, multiple tailor, Leeds, 1952.

The first recorded western film, the 21-minute *Kit Carson*, opened in America, 1903.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Anne of Cleves, fourth wife of King Henry VIII, Cleves, Germany, 1515; Michael Faraday, chemist, London, 1791; Dame Christabel Pankhurst, suffragette, Manchester, 1880; Erich von Stroheim, actor and film director, Vienna, 1885.

DEATHS: Johann Agricola, Lutheran reformer, Berlin, 1566; John Biddle, Unitarian, London, 1662; Frederick Soddy, chemist, Nobel laureate 1921, Brighton, 1956; Oliver St John Gogarty, surgeon and writer, New York, 1957; Irving Berlin, song writer, Manhattan, 1989.

Sir Robert Walpole became the first Prime Minister to occupy 10 Downing Street, 1735.

Commercial television began in Britain; the first advertisement was for Gibbs SR toothpaste, 1955.

Service dinners

HMS Victory
Rear-Admiral Jan Spoelstra, RNLN, was the principal guest at a dinner held last night onboard *HMS Victory* in Portsmouth to mark his retirement as Chief-of-Allied Staffs to the Commander-in-Chief Eastern Atlantic area. Admiral Sir Peter Abbott, Commander-in-Chief Fleet and Commander-in-Chief Eastern Atlantic, Vice-Admiral C. van Duyvendijk, RNLN, Deputy Commander-in-Chief Eastern Atlantic, Rear-Admiral J. F. Perowne, Commander Submarines Eastern Atlantic, and Air Vice-Marshal C. R. Spink, Commander Air Forces Eastern Atlantic, were among the guests.

HMS Collingwood
Mrs John Chadwick was the guest of honour at a ladies dinner held last night in the wardroom of *HMS Collingwood*. Commander J.Blackett presided.

Royal Regiment of Fusiliers
Serving and retired officers of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers held their annual dinner last night at the Naval and Military Club. Brigadier D.A.K. Biggart, Colonel of the Regiment, presided.

4th and 5th Battalions Dorset Regiment (1939-1945)
General Sir John Wilsey attended the annual dinner of Officers of the 4th and 5th Battalions Dorset Regiment (1939-1945) held last night at the TA Centre, Dorchester. Colonel Philip Roper presided.

Dinners

Distillers' Company
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended a dinner of of the Distillers' Company held last night at the Mansion House. Mr Peter Hallgarten, Master, presided, assisted by the Wardens. The Lord Mayor, Mr David Rutherford and Mr Christopher Mitchell also spoke. The Masters of the Brewer's and Leathersellers' Companies and their ladies were among the guests.

Baroness Falkender
Baroness Young, Chairman of the Independent Schools Joint Council, was the guest of honour at a dinner held last night at the House of Lords, by courtesy of Baroness Falkender, to mark the silver jubilee of the Association of Representatives of Old Pupils Societies. Dr Arthur Hearnden, general secretary of the council, and Mr M.E.C. Comer President and founder of AROPS, were among those present.

TED BATH

Judy Boyt, the sculptor, with a model of her tribute to the horse, which she hopes will fill an empty plinth opposite Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square. If her idea for an 11-horse sculpture is accepted, Ms Boyt, of Devizes, Wiltshire, will spend three years making the twice-lifesize bronze horses at an estimated cost of £1 million

Weekend birthdays

TODAY:
Mr Ian Albery, impresario, 60; Lord Barnard, 73; the Hon Mrs Rhiannon Chapman, former director, Industrial Society, 50; Mr Leonard Cohen, singer, poet and composer, 62; Mrs Shirley Conran, writer, 64; Mr William Dacombe, banker, 62; Miss Mary Fetherston-Dilke, former matron-in-chief, QARNNS, 78; General Sir John Gibbon, 79; Mr Larry Hagman, actor, 65; Professor J.M. Ham, electrical engineer, 76; Mr John Hoddinott, Chief Constable, Hampshire, 52; Sir Colin Imray, diplomat, 63; Lord Ironside, 72; Professor Sir Hugh Lloyd-Jones, Emeritus Professor of Greek, Oxford University, 74; Sir Ian MacGregor, former chairman, National Coal Board, 84; Sir Peter Matthews, company director, 74; Mr Simon Mayo, broadcaster, 38; Mr Anthony Millard, Headmaster, Giggleswick School, 48; Mr Bill Murray, actor, 46; Miss Jean Robertson, former matron-in-chief, QARNNS, 68; Sir John A. Smith, former deputy commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 58; Sir Brian Unwin, president and chairman of the board, European Investment Bank 61; Professor Bernard Williams, philosopher, 67; Mr Jimmy Young, broadcaster, 73.

TOMORROW:
Dr Dannie Abse, poet, 73; Mr John Caird, theatre director and writer, 48; Sir George Cartland, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Tasmania, 84; Miss Maria Charles, actress, 67; Dr David Drewry, director, Science and Technology, Natural Environment Research Council, 49; Dr Liam Fox, MP, 35; Mr William Franklyn, actor, 70; Miss Gina Fratini, fashion designer, 65; Mr Colin Graham, opera director, 65; the Earl of Guilford, 63; Sir James Henry, former chairman, Foreign Compensation Commission, 85; Professor Sir Frederick Holliday, chairman, Northumbrian Water Group, 61; Mr Graham Jones, Headmaster, Repton School, 52; Miss Deborah Lavin, Principal-elect, the new college, Durham University, and president of the Howlands Trust, 57; Mr Mark Loveday, senior partner, Cazenove, 53; Professor Norbert Lynton, art historian, 69; Sir Charles Mander, company chairman, 75; Sir Nigel Mobbs, chairman, Slough Estates, 59; Lord Moran, 72; Captain Mark Phillips, equestrian trainer, 48; Mrs Mary Reveley, racehorse trainer, 56; Lord Saye and Sele, 76; Mr John Tomlinson, operatic bass, 50; Mr Alan Waterworth, Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside, 65; Mrs Fay Weldon, writer, 65; Sir John Wickerson, former president, Law Society, 59; Lord Younger of Prestwick, KT, 65.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Nigel Abbott, Rector, Much Hadham, and Chairman of the Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility (St Albans): to be *also* an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, same diocese.

The Rev Harold Aldridge, Vicar, *Burton and Shotwick: now also* Rural Dean of Wirral South (Chester).

The Rev Ian Arthur, Rector, Potton w Sutton and Cockayne Hatley: to be Priest-in-charge, Sharnbrook and Knotting w Souldrop (St Albans).

The Right Rev Edwin Barnes, Bishop of Richborough and Provincial Episcopal Visitor: to be *also* an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban (St Albans).

Canon Bernice Broggio, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Upper Tooting: to be *also* Rural Dean of Tooting (Southwark).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.P.St.J. Barrett
and Miss E.J. Thomas
The engagement is announced between Andrew, only son of Dr and Mrs Andrew Barrett, of Freshwater, Isle of Wight, and Jessica, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Jack Thomas, of Ashley Gardens, SW1.

Mr D.R. Ettle
and Miss E.K. Whitehead
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Roy Ettle, of Bloxwich, West Midlands, and Emma-Kate, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Whitehead, of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

Mr R.R. McIntire
and Miss F.M. Nuttall
The engagement is announced between Rick Richmond, youngest son of Larry and Lydia McIntire, of Sarasota, Florida, USA, and Fay Michele, eldest daughter of John and Diana Nuttall, of Oakwood, London.

Dr D.K.L. Prosser
and Miss J.R. Evans
The engagement is announced between David, son of Brigadier and Mrs Keith Prosser, of Putney, and Jennifer, fourth daughter of Mr and Mrs John Evans, of Brighton.

Mr J.P. Rutteman
and Miss V.G. Berman
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr Paul Rutteman, CBE, and Mrs Rutteman, of Dulwich, London, and Victoria, daughter of Sir Frank and Lady Berman, of Blackheath, London.

Mr C.R. Sherriff
and Miss L.T. Healey
The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of Mr and Mrs Mark Sherriff, of Blairdrummond, Stirling, and Toland, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Healey, of Philadelphia, USA.

Mr M.R.C. Wyatt
and Miss K.J. Stainton
The engagement is announced between Mark, only son of the late Mr R.C. Wyatt and of Mrs Wyatt, of Camddwr Farm, Clwyd, and Katie, only daughter of Mr N.J. Stainton, of Kendal, Cumbria, and of Mrs J.W. Raw, of Ewhurst Green, East Sussex.

Marriages

Mr R.R.P. Grounds
and Mrs D.M.E. Grenfell
A Service of Blessing took place at All Saints Church, Hordle, Lymington, Hampshire, on Saturday, September 14, 1996, following the marriage of Roger Grounds, son of Mr Stanley Paterson Grounds, to Diana Grenfell, elder daughter of Mrs Muriel Roberts.

Mr T.R. Mazuri
and Miss A.M. Grady
The marriage took place on Sunday, September 8, 1996, at St Saviour's RC Church, Lewisham, between Tjay Mazuri and Angela Grady.

Mr S. Montague-Jones
and Mrs A.M. Morris
The marriage took place on Tuesday, September 17, at Christ's Chapel, Alleyn's College of God's Gift, Dulwich, of Stephen Montague-Jones and Anna Mary Morris, née Field, both of Lymington, Hampshire.

Mr J.M.Q. Polturak
and Miss H.A. Steel
The marriage took place on Friday, September 6, at The Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield, EC1, between Jeremy, son of the late Mr and Mrs Jerzy Polturak, of Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, and Harriet, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs George Steel, of Weybridge, Surrey.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Scarlett and Astrid Dalton, Ms Katherine Steel, Miss Lisa Firestone, Miss Laura Fraser, Mrs Annie Jacobsen, Miss Ruth Macconachie and Miss Alice Thomas. Mr Harry Shiers was best man.

Service reception

RAF Strike Command
Air Chief Marshal Sir William Wratten, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Strike Command, and Lady Wratten received the guests at the annual reception of Headquarters Strike Command held last night at RAF High Wycombe.

Representatives of High Commissions, Embassies, Local Government, industry, HM Forces, professional associations and the local community were present.

Church services tomorrow

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), Schubert in G; 3.30 Inter-Church Service for the speech handicapped, A Caribbean Jubilate (Kelly), O Lorde the maker (Joubert).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis in C (Mozart), Rev D Claringbull; 4 Festal E, Wakefield Service (Carter), The heavens are telling (Haydn), Sumsion in G.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M, Almighty God, who hast me brought (Ford); 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart), Canon A Hindley; 4 Choral E, Beati quorum via (Stanford), The Provost.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8, 11 Holy Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), The Dean; 3.30 E, Blair in B minor, O Lord we beseech thee (Pring).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, The Christchurch Mass (Archer), How beautiful are the feet (Handel), Canon J Simpson; 3.30 Choral E, Sumsion in D, A song of wisdom (Stanford), Canon P Johnson.

CADEIRLAN BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch; 9.45 Cymun Bendigaid; 11 Choral M, Ireland in F, Lord we pray thee (Haydn); 3.15 Choral E, Aston in F, Thou wilt keep him (Wesley); 5 Gosber.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Missa super bel'amfitrit altera (Lassus), Jubilate deo (de Rore), Rev P Brett; 3.15 E, Stanford in C, Expectans expectavi (Wood); 6.30 West Charing Deanery E, Ven M Smith.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in F, Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Canon C Hill; 3 E; 6.30 E sung by choir.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, The Provost; 11.15 S Euch, Darke in F, Ave verum (Byrd), Canon B Thompson; 6 Choral E, Wood in F, O Lorde the maker of al thing (Joubert), Canon T Shannon.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Darke in F, Jesu dulcis memoria (Shepherd), The Dean; 11.30 Choral M, John Ireland in F, Seek the Lord (Bliss); 3.30 Choral E, Cesar's Service (Amner), Like as the hart (Howells); 6.30 Evening, Canon T Dennis.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Short Service (Weelkes), Sing we merrily (Batten), Rt Rev E Knapp-Fisher; 11 S Euch, Missa Bell'Amfitrit' Altera (Lassus), I sat down under his shadow (Bairstow), The Precentor; 3.30 E, Purcell in E minor, The Spirit of the Lord (Elgar).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 Communion; 10.30 Euch, Stoneleigh Setting (Wright), Canon C Burch; 3 German Lutherans; 3 Polish; 5.30 E, O Lord increase my faith (Loosemore), Hereford Service (Lloyd).

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.40 S Euch, Whitlock in G, Hail gladdening light (Wood), Rev T Chesterman; 6.30 E, Wood in E flat, Sing we merrily (Campbell), Exultemus (Whitlock), Rev G Marshall.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon D Brown; 10 M, Britten in C, Lord thou hast told us (Bax), Canon M Perry; 11.15 HC, Missa brevis in D, K194 (Mozart), The Precentor; 3.30 E, Jackson in G minor, I do believe (Croft).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC, Canon J Inge; 10.30 S Euch, Missa O quam Gloriosum (Vittoria), O Lord increase my faith, Rev J Inge; 3.45 E, Ireland in F, O Lord the maker of all thing (Joubert).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, O Holy Spirit Lord of grace (Tye), Darke in F, View me Lord (Lloyd), The Dean; 11.15 M, Boyce in C, Beati quorum via (Stanford), The Precentor; 3 E, Purcell in G minor, Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré); 6.30 E, Chants 282 & 277, Come let's rejoice (Amner), Preb B Tubbs.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.12.15 HC; 10.15 Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Canon C Morgan; 3 E, Royal British Legion, Blair in B minor, And I saw a new heaven (Bairstow).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev Prof D Martin; 9.45 S Euch, Stanford in G & B flat, Jesu grant me this (Whitlock), Canon G Reid; 11.15 M, Jubilate (Schutz), O where shall wisdom be found (Boyce), The Sub Dean & Precentor.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch; 4 Choral E.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch; 3.30 E.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis in D K194 (Mozart), Canon A Danaux; 11.15 M, Short Service (Gibbons), Let thy merciful ears (Mudd); 3.45 E, Collegium regale (Howells), And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), Canon M Hunter.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & Litany; 8, 12.30 Holy Euch, Rev N Court; 9 Parish Euch, Rev N Court; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Caesar), God be in my head (Rutter), The Canon; 3.30 Choral E, Stanford in B flat, For lo, I raise up (Stanford); 6.30 E & Sermon, Mr A Steele.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch & Confirmation, Jackson in G, O Lord give thy Holy Spirit (Tallis), Bishop Roxburgh; 6.30 E, O thou the central orb (Wood), Canon P Denby.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC, Canon B Langley; 9.30 S Euch, Canon B Langley; 6 Choral E.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Leicester Service (Sumsion), Lord in thy rage (Byrd); 6.30 Choral E, Stanford in B flat, Through the day (Moore).

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Royal Norfolk Regiment Association; 10.30 S Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart), Wash me throughly (Wesley), Rev A Browne; 3.30 E, Day in B flat, Beati quorum via (Stanford), The Archdeacon; 6.30 Compline.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M, Stanford in G; 10.30 Euch, Darke in E, The Chancellor; 3.30 E, Brewer in D, My soul there is a country (Parry).

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch, Canon K Punshon; 11.30 M, Britten in C, O taste and see (Vaughan Williams); 12.30 Euch, Rev D Murfet; 3 Holy Baptism, 5.30 E, Stanford in G, Though I speak with the tongues of men (Bairstow), Canon K Punshon.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Orchestral Mass, Missa Sancti Nicolai, Ave verum (Mozart), Rev A Moses; 3.15 E, Let thy merciful ears (Mudd), Jackson in G, Lord thou hast been our refuge (Boyce); 6.30 Licensing of Evangelists, Canon M Wilson.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Agnus Dei II (Palestrina), Miss M Selby; 11.45 Text for the Day; 6.30 E & Sermon, Blair in B minor, Expectans Expectavi, The Provost.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch, The Provost; 11 Choral Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Teach me O Lord (Byrd), Locus iste (Bruckner), Rev R White; 3 Choral E, Coventry Service (Whettam), My beloved spake (Purcell), Rev H Cunliffe.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & Litany; 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Communion, The Vicar. Choral: 11 S Euch, Darke in F, Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Canon I Bunting; 3.15 E, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, Bairstow in D, Te lucis ante terminum (Gardiner), Rev G Maltby.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Schubert in G, Rev M Ellis; 6 E, Stanford in A, Like as the hard (Howells), Ven R Whiteman.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon G Nairn-Briggs; 9.15 Parish Communion, The Provost; 11 Solemn Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Sumsion in G, Canon D Baxter; 6.30 E, Ireland in F, Pie Jesu (Fauré), The Bishop

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Jackson in G, Ave verum corpus (Elgar), Preb A Wallace; 11.30 M, Ireland in C, The Lord is my shepherd (Radcliffe); 3 E, Purcell in E minor, O sing unto the Lord (Purcell), Preb M Wright.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Short Service (Byrd), Prevent us O Lord (Byrd), Sis F Dominica; 11.15 Euch, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Litany to the Holy Spirit (Hurford), The Lord is my shepherd (Berkeley), The Dean; 3 E, Stanford in A, Come Holy Ghost (Harvey), Canon A Harvey; 5.45 Organ Recital; 6.30 E, Rev P Cowell.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Solemn Mass, Missa Ave maris stella (Victoria), Laudibus in sanctis (Byrd), O sacrum convivium (Tallis), Crown Imperial (Walton); 3.30 Solemn V & B, Magnificat septimi toni (Lassus), O salutaris hostia (Rossini), Fantaisie in E flat (Saint-Saens); 4.30 Organ Recital.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Te Deum in E (Britten), Exultate Deo (Palestrina), Lord Coggan; 11.30 Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Fugue in G minor (Bach); 3.30 E, Bairstow in D, Totus tuus (Gorecki), Archdeacon of Basingstoke.

YORK MINSTER: 8,8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Stanford in C, Rev L Stanbridge; 11.30 M, Britten in C; 4 E, Stanford in B flat, O God thou art my God (Purcell), Rev M Escritt.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral M, Stanford in B flat, Oh for a closer walk with God (Stanford), Rev R Griffiths; 3.30 Choral E, Rose in C minor, Expectans expectavi (Wood).

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid, Y Deon; 9.30 Family, The Succentor; 11.15 Choral Euch, Sumsion in F, God so loved the world (Stainer), The Canon; 6 Choral E, Walmisley in D minor, O thou the central orb (Wood), The Dean.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Morning HC, Rev C Kenny; 10 Morning HC, The Very Rev W McDonald, Gloria in Excelsis, Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina); 11.30 Morning, The Very Rev W McDonald, Behold O God our defender (Howells); 6 St Giles at Six Chansons; 8 Evening, Rev J Williams.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 Morning, For I went with the multitude (Aston), All thy works shall praise thee (Mathias), Rev R Frazer; 6 Evening, Rev R Frazer.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Darke in F, O salutaris hostia (Tallis), Rev J Halliburton; 3.15 E, Bairstow in D, They that go down to the sea in ships (Sumsion), Rev N Gallagher; 5.15 Organ Recital.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8.5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Rev I Davies; 6 E&B, Nicholson in D flat, The Vicar.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 Communion; 11 World Need Sunday, Rev D Applin; 6.30 Rev Dr J Stott.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa O quam gloriosum (Vittoria), Salve Regina (Byrd), O salutaris hostia (Pierre de la Rue).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10 Children; 11 M, In manes tuas (Shepherd), Mr D Royce; 6 E, Mr J Watherston.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Harvest Thanksgiving, Rev S Hood; 6.30 Rev S Hood.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Salve Regina (Victoria), Nisi Dominus (Monteverdi); 12.30, 4.30, 7 Mass; 3.30 V & B, Ave verum (Poulenc).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH, Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 Morning, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: Harvest Festival; 11, 6.30, Dr P Graves.

ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH, South Kensington: 11 Missa Brevis a 4 (Monteverdi), Simile est Regnum (Morales).

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev P Schmiege; 7 Jazz Vespers, Rev P Schmiege.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), The Rector; 6.30 This Spiritual House, A Processional Service (Leighton) (Second Service), Drop drop slow tears (Leighton), The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Mozart in C, Ave verum corpus (Mozart & Byrd), The Lord Bishop of London; 6.30 Choral E, Tomkins 5th Service, Give ear O Lord (Weelkes), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Tantum ergo sacramentum (Duruflé), Rev P Bishop.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev R Samson; 6.30 Songs of Spirit I.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 S Mass, Mass in D (Dvorak), Beati Quorum Via (Stanford).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis in F (Haydn), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Little Organ Mass (Haydn), He remembering his mercy (Walmisley), Rev A Meldrum; 6 Choral E, Short Service (Weelkes), Mater Christi (Taverner).

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev S Cathie; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family, Allegro in B flat (Bridge), Rev D Richards; 6.30 HC, Rev M Okello.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family; 11 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Jubilate Deo (Britten), Rev T Devonshire Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch with Baptism, Missa brevis (Palestrina), O God the king of glory (Gibbons), Canon D Gray.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev B Schunemann; 11.30 Visitors, Rev B Schunemann; 2.45 Chinese; 5 Choral E; 6.30 Evening, Rec C Herbert.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, Rev F Gelli; 11.15 Choral M, The Vicar; 6.30 E, Miss P Haines.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa brevis (Heredia), Fr B Scott; 6 Solemn E & B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Festal Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), O salutaria hostia, Rev L van der Pump; 6 Living with faith.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Assumpta est Maria (Palestrina), Give me the wings of faith (Leighton), Rev R McLaren.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Stanford in C, Hymn to St Cecilia (Britten), Rev C Courtauld.

ST PETER'S, *Eaton Square, SW1:* 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa Vinum Bonum (Lassus), Ave Maria (Bruckner), Jubilate (Mathias), Fr A Chidwick.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 11 MP; Collegium Regale (Howells), The Lord is my shepherd (Stanford), Rev R Ballard; 6.30 E.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC, Rev P Abram; 11 M & Sermon, Stanford in C, O Lord arise (Weelkes), Rev P Abram.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Caesar), Beati quorum via (Stanford), Toccata (Gigout), Rev S Hobbs.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11, Praise the Lord, ye servants (Blow), For the beauty of the earth (Rutter), Band of the Grenadier Guards, Rev L Claxton; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch (BCP), Stanford in C & F, O quam gloriosum (Vittoria), Rev C French.

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Hear my prayer, Lord; listen to my cry; do not be deaf to my weeping; for I find shelter with you; I am a passing guest, as all my forefathers were. Psalm 39 : 12

BIRTHS

DONALD - On September 13th, to Cas and Philip, a daughter, Evie Rose, a sister for Ella.

EXCELL - On September 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Emma (née Palmer) and Justin, a beautiful daughter, India Alice.

GLADSTONE-SOUTH - On September 16th, to Carol and Don, a beautiful son, Samuel. Much thanks to Halifax Maternity Hospital, West Yorkshire.

GREEN - On September 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Joyce and Lawrence, a beautiful daughter, Nicole Paige.

KEARNEY - On September 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Suzanne (née Abdul-Noor) and William, a beautiful baby boy, Daniel. Welcome to the world son.

LANYON/KEAN - On September 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Iain and Sharon, a delightful and beautiful daughter, Hannah.

MACKENZIE - On 19th September 1996, to Lucy (née Mitcalfe) and Roderick, a son, Hector Eneas James.

McGEOUGH - On Friday 20th September, to Helena (née Pennant Jones) and Declan, a daughter, Alana Grace, a sister for Lily.

MUIR - On September 13th at The Portland Hospital [illegible] Aimee Sierra, that beautiful daughter of Cynthia and James arrived, Brisbane, Huelva, London, Paris, Sydney, Warrington.

BIRTHS

ORR - On September 13th, to Janie (née Wright) and David, a daughter, Katie, a sister for Patrick.

PALMER - On 12th September 1996, to Rachel and Richard, a son, Jack Daniel, a brother for Chris and Sam.

PICKARD - On September 15th 1996, to Sarah (née Appleyard) and Gregory, a son, George Donald.

ROLFE - On 15th September, to Martha (née Leimbach) and Alastair, a precious son, Nicholas Sebastian, a brother for Imogen.

STRINGER - Vivien Charlotte Stringer at The Portland Hospital on September 17th, to Kevin and Beatrice and sister Fiona.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

BAKER:BROWN - On 21st September 1946 in Heathfield, Douglas Baker to Phyllis (Mary) Brown. Congratulations, have a lovely day Mum and Dad, from all the family.

CRANFIELD:KNOWLES - On 21st September 1946 at St Paul's, Knightsbridge, Humphrey to Alison. Living in Suffolk.

MOSS:HUSSEY - On September 21st 1946 at the old Congregational Church, Romford, Ken to Pamela. With thanks for all the years.

TATE:HOLLOWAY - On 21st September 1946 at St Mary's, [illegible], Peter E. Tate to Margaret M. Holloway. Now at Bredon, Tewkesbury.

DEATHS

BROOKE JOHNSON - Lieutenant Colonel. St.John OBE, MBE. On September 18th 1996 peacefully after a full life. Private family funeral. Memorial Service to be announced.

COWELL - Thomas Peter, aged 18 years, son of Patricia Cowell (née Broadbent) and Hugh Cowell, tragically on 5th September. Brother of Richard and Elizabeth. Enquiries to K.Y. Green (01296) 82041.

EUGENE - Br. Eugene, S.C. (Gerard Saiols) a member of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart and founding Headmaster of St Columba's College, St Albans, Herts. died on Sunday, 15th September. There will be a Memorial Mass at St Columba's College at 8 pm on Wednesday 9th October presided by Bishop James O'Brien, Bishop of Hertfordshire.

GRAHAM - Ewan, Lt.-Col., Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, in his 82nd year, peacefully after a brave fight. Husband of Sarah and father of Calum, Fergus, [illegible] and Marco. Funeral private. Memorial Service to be announced later. Donations, if wished, to Leukaemia Research Fund.

LATTEY - On 17th September peacefully at Eastbury Manor, Compton, nr. Guildford, Surrey, recently of Hallow, Worcester, Marjorie (née Martineau), wife of the late Colonel James Cumming Lattey, T.D. DL. Much loved mother of Peter and daughter-in-law Sue, grandmother of Jonathan and Alison. Requiem at St George's Catholic Church, Worcester on Thursday 3rd October at 12 noon followed by cremation. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Distressed Gentlefolks Aid Association c/o the Funeral Directors, A.V. Band, 41 St Nicholas Street, Worcester.

LEE - Rachel. Suddenly on September 15th 1996 after a short illness whilst in Northern Ireland. Her enormous love and total devotion will be sorely missed by her lifelong companion and loving husband Thomas James and her sons Christopher James and Richard Thomas. An ex-QARANC nursing sister who saw wartime service in North Africa, The Mediterranean and India. Thereafter, her unflagging energy was given to caring for and supporting her husband and family wherever they lived including Malaya, West Africa and Singapore. Her selfless service to others [illegible] Funeral service at 12 noon at the Methodist Church, [illegible] Coventry and thereafter burial at Temple Balsall Cemetery on Wednesday 25th September 1996. Enquiries to (01564) 774720.

LINSKILL - Maetta, peacefully on 11th September, beloved wife of Joseph and mother of Julian, grandmother of Hannah and Charlotte-Rose. Deeply mourned.

LUDLOW - Ernest F.J., M.B.E. B.E.M. Maltese Cross, Warrant Officer R.A.F. retired. Loved husband and father, died 18th September in Andover Memorial Hospital. Funeral Service at Salisbury Crematorium on 26th September 11 am. Family flowers only but donations if desired to The R.A.F. Benevolent Fund c/o Dunning Funeral Service, 2 Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP.

MORGAN - On 10th September, after a long illness borne with courage, Derek, of New York City. Dearly loved husband of Pat. Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Ransom Church, Eastbourne on Monday 23rd September at 12 noon. Tel: 01323 727801.

FANTIC - Milan. On 14th September, peacefully whilst on holiday in France. Beloved husband of Zdenka, father of Denis, brother of [illegible], father-in-law of Dunja and grandfather of Rada.

PYNE - Dr. Clifford W.R., VRD, peacefully on Thursday 19th September at home in Tarbock, only son of the late Mr and Mrs Alfred Pyne of Mossley Hill. Husband of Sandra, father of Timothy and Nicholas. Former family doctor of Old Swan and Ditton, Widnes. One time Principal Medical Officer H.M.S. Eaglet Mersey Division RNR. Flowers from immediate family only by request. Donations if desired to the Shipwrecked Mariners Society, 1 North Pallant, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1TL. Funeral Service and Cremation to take place at 11 am on Wednesday 25th September 1996 at Widnes Crematorium, Birchfield Road, Widnes.

ROBINSON - Brent died suddenly on 14th September. University Lecturer and Fellow of Hughes Hall Cambridge. Brent leaves behind his wife Sue, daughter Emma and parents Hazel and Charles. Funeral service will take place on Friday September 27th in Fen Drayton Parish Church, at 12 noon. Donations please to the RNLI or flowers if preferred, and all enquiries to Weyman Funeral Service, 26 Abbey Walk, Cambridge. Tel: (01223) 354289.

ROWLAND - Basil Edward 'Tubby' aged 86. Suddenly, at home, on 14th September. Much loved by Richard, John and Mary Kate and the [illegible] Memorial Service at St Giles Parish Church, Ashtead on Friday 27th September at 12.30 pm followed by private cremation. No flowers by request, but donations to the Church Missionary Society appreciated.

SUTHERLAND - Ian Melville aged 69 in Australia. Husband of Fay, father of Roger, Keith and Julie, brother of Joan, son of the late Mr and Mrs A.M. Sutherland. The funeral has taken place. Enquiries to 00 613 9583 0427.

VAUGHAN-NEIL - Edward (Ted). Private funeral Mass was on 9th September in Wimbledon. R.I.P.

WADE - Ruby Josephine (née Cordy-Hodder) on September 5th 1996, aged 92 of Clapham, South, London, died peacefully at Moorecroft Nursing Home, Surrey. Mrs Wade is survived by six daughters and two sons, and will be greatly missed.

WHITBY - Cynthia on Monday 16th September peacefully at home. Funeral Chiltern Crematorium, Amersham, Wednesday 25th September at 12.30 pm. No flowers by request.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

OLDMAN - Win died at St. Donat's, S. Wales, September 22nd 1976. So fondly remembered. A friend.

OFFORD - Frank S. Remembering you with a longing that does not lessen with the passing days. A 'something' ever present awaking one at night and cruelly breaking one's heart. Elizabeth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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BIRTHDAYS

OHANA BEVAN "1 TODAY" [illegible]

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LEGAL NOTICES

No. 04481 of 1994
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF
THE RANK ORGANISATION PLC
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition was on 18 September 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the sanction of the scheme of arrangement proposed to be made between the above-named company (the Company) and the holders of the ordinary shares and the convertible cumulative redeemable preference shares in the Company.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL on 2 October 1996.

Shareholders are entitled to attend and speak at this Court Hearing. Any shareholder of the Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an order to sanction the said scheme of arrangement should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. [illegible]

[illegible] Freshfields [illegible] London [illegible] Ref: [illegible]

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هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

GENERAL ERNESTO GEISEL

General Ernesto Geisel, President of Brazil, 1974-79, died in Rio de Janeiro on September 10 aged 89. He was born on August 3, 1907.

In the 21-year period of military dictatorship endured by Brazil from 1964 to 1985, the stewardship of Ernesto Geisel may be judged a good deal less harshly than those of his predecessors. Though the term "liberalisation" as applied to his regime needs to be seen strictly in the context of a no-dissent autocracy, the more shameful aspects of South American authoritarianism of the 1960s and 1970s were largely absent from his method of governing. Terror, torture and political murder, the stock reactions of South American regimes to any form of opposition, were not, as far as he could see, instruments on which the administration of a country like Brazil could be sustained indefinitely.

Although he had originally backed the coup that overthrew the civilian government of João Goulart in 1964, he realised that the remarkable economic growth which took place from the end of the 1960s onwards allowed more open elections (in the context, of course, of a system designed to preserve the government majority). Nevertheless, the introduction of a degree of direct election to the Senate may be seen as the first faltering steps which were to lead to the re-establishment of democracy under his successor, João Baptista de Figueiredo.

True, there was more than a degree of the involuntary in all this. Geisel recognised that the military regime was becoming deeply unpopular inside Brazil itself. He could see, too, that the appearance of internal liberalisation was making his country more acceptable abroad than it had been for many a long year. This popularity had, of course, much to do with his country's new-found prosperity. Its consequent desire to develop its infrastructure (and armaments) made it immensely attractive to European investors, whose consciences could be eased by the thought that they were dealing with a regime that was attempting to move towards political respectability. A state visit to Britain by Geisel in 1976, for example, ended in a flurry of deals by British banking and industrial groups covering the development of railways, the steel industry and offshore drilling for oil.

The Queen and President Geisel ride past protesters on their way from Victoria station to Buckingham Palace in May 1976

Ernesto Geisel was of German extraction; his grandfather had been a Lutheran minister in Stuttgart. He was born in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, a region with heavy German influence.

Though the Geisel family was not particularly well to do, its prospects were transformed when Ernesto's sister Amalia won the national lottery. Her three brothers were thus enabled to pay their way through Brazil's military academy.

Geisel prospered particularly under Getulio Vargas, the governor of his home province, who had seized power in 1930 for what was to become a lengthy presidency. Geisel had impressed the President as a young officer when he put to flight a group of rebels with a burst of machinegun fire, practically under the President's nose. When Vargas began a wordy speech of congratulation Geisel, realising that the firefight was not over yet, cut him short with: "Thanks, but this is no place for a President," and to Vargas's aides, "Get him out of here."

Thereafter Geisel progressed swiftly to senior rank, helped by a course at the US Army General Staff and Command School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. In an economy at that stage virtually controlled by the military, he had considerable experience of oil production, being first head of an oil refinery and then for four years until 1961 a member of Brazil's National Petroleum Council.

After the 1964 overthrow of Goulart, in which he was an active participant, Geisel served under the first three military Presidents in various capacities. Retiring from the army in 1969, he was appointed president of Petrobras, the country's state-owned oil company, a post he held until 1973. When, in the following year he was selected President by the military he was almost completely unknown to the Brazilian public.

He continued to support the broad aims of the right-wing revolution of 1964. The business of Brazil was to be business and nothing should stand in its way. But private enterprise and foreign investment were to be encouraged, and the old military grip on the reins of the industrial machine was to be loosened.

This liberalisation was discernible in his political attitudes, too. While he was very far from anathematising torture of political prisoners, its systematic use was palpably less after 1974 than it had been before. Several army officers who were convicted of torturing prisoners to death were dismissed.

On the overseas front he reduced his country's links with the US, established diplomatic relations with China, signed oil agreements with the Soviet Union and wooed the Arabs. He also enjoyed a fruitful commercial relationship with Britain's defence equipment manufacturers, who sold him submarines, frigates and guided missiles — all of which ensured that the Labour Government of the day found no difficulty in stopping its ears to left-wing protests and hostile public demonstrations against the presidential visit of May 1976. Geisel had previously visited both Bonn and Paris and with Britain's economy in dire straits it was no time to be letting slip potentially lucrative contracts.

Although very far from being a model, the regime of Geisel nevertheless let in some cracks of light on the tyrannous darkness which had prevailed in Brazil to that point, and this modest degree of illumination was eventually to lead to the restoration of democracy at the end of his successor's term in 1985.

Geisel was married with one daughter.

GRAHAM LAW

Graham Law, architect, died on September 13 aged 72. He was born in Glasgow on September 28, 1923.

A FOUNDING partner of the architectural practice, Law and Dunbar-Nasmith, and a member of the Royal Scottish Academy, Graham Law was one of the most distinguished Scottish architects of his generation.

Graham Couper Law was born in Glasgow and educated at Merchiston Castle School. During the war he served in the Royal Engineers, spending some time in India where, in spare moments, he enjoyed sketching the bungalows in Bangalore.

After the war he went up to King's College, Cambridge, to study architecture. He found the postwar intellectual climate a great stimulus and graduated with a first-class degree. Under the tutelage of Nicholas Pevsner, his dissertation was the first serious study of Alexander "Greek" Thompson.

After a brief time in London he returned to Scotland, working initially for the Weir Housing Corporation and subsequently with Robert Matthew, who had just opened his first office.

Law was the fifth assistant to be taken on in that practice which grew to number hundreds; the work was varied and the atmosphere exceptionally stimulating. It was there that he met his future partner, James Dunbar-Nasmith, who had joined a few months earlier, and three years later they left to establish the practice which still carries their name. Law worked in it as a partner and eventually as a consultant for the rest of his life.

The practice was based in Edinburgh, but subsequently opened an office in Forres and more recently in Wiesbaden, Germany. Like most practices at the time, the early work was domestic. It first came to public notice with a significant breakthrough in speculative housing at Dunblane.

At the same time, Law embarked on designing a series of major exhibitions for the Edinburgh Festival, some in association with Richard Buckle, which included Epstein, Hepworth, Indian Art and Dance, and Treasures from Scottish Houses. In these he displayed his talent for creating colour and drama with the minimum of materials and expense. As the practice grew, it received a number of commissions for new theatres, all the early ones being designed by him and all making a significant contribution to theatre design in this country.

The Eden Court Theatre re-established the excitement of an opera house interior without any form of pastiche, something which he loathed, and the theatre at Pitlochry ensured that its magnificent site could be enjoyed as much by the company as by the audience. In all his work, he was determined that his buildings would give constant pleasure to the people who used them and there can be no doubt that he achieved this. All his major buildings received significant architectural awards and all received unusual public acclaim.

A talented painter, he was a regular contributor of both painting and architecture to the Royal Scottish Academy, and was elected an academician in 1995. But a man of clear mind and delightful wit, he was possessed of remarkable modesty.

He is survived by his wife Isobel and by their son and three daughters.

JOYCE PLESTERS

Joyce Plesters, conservation scientist, died on August 21 aged 69. She was born on April 13, 1927.

COMBINING the seemingly disparate disciplines of chemistry and art history, Joyce Plesters played a focal role in advancing the understanding of painting techniques of Old Masters. As a conservation scientist working at the National Gallery she microscopically examined cross-sections of paint-layer structures in order to differentiate between orginal pigments and later restorations. Her work was valuable not only in teaching how to conserve paintings by slowing down deterioration processes but also, through her research into changing painting techniqes over the past 700 years, in art historical scholarship.

The results of her pioneering work were first published in *Studies in Conservation* (1956) and her techniques were imitated in museums and galleries the world over. If quicker and more efficient instrumental methods of analysis have subsequently been invented, technical art history may still be said to be rooted in the work of Joyce Plesters.

Rosa Joyce Plesters was born at Studley in Warwickshire. She took a degree in chemistry at Royal Holloway College, London, before going on to become the third member of the Scientific Department of the National Gallery in 1949. She was to remain there for nearly 40 years.

At first Plesters attended Birkbeck College where, studying History of Art under the supervision of Nikolaus Pevsner, she built up the historical knowledge which was to form the basis of her later research. Meanwhile, in the laboratories of the National Gallery she refined and mastered techniques of micro-analytical identification of pigments, pioneering the examination of minute fragments of paint sampled from the very edges of damaged areas. These barely visible cross-sections of the paint structure

were embedded in cubes of synthetic transparent resin which could be subsequently ground down and polished so that the build-up of paint layers could be examined under the microscope.

So impressive became her expertise that she was consulted by conservators and historians all over the world. During the 1960s, when floods caused extensive damage in Florence and Venice, she was invited to set up analytical laboratories in both these cities. For several months she worked on the restoration of the church of Madonna dell'Orto with its cycle of canvases by Tintoretto, and Venetian art became her especial love. She published several papers on Tintoretto and spoke at a symposium held in Venice in 1994 to mark the 400th anniversary of the painter's death.

It was Joyce Plesters, too, who first discovered that Titian applied a thin layer of gesso over his canvas so that he could sketch on to it the outlines of figures which would later disappear as the paint soaked into the gesso ground. But it was not only in the field of Venetian art that she made her mark. She was the first person to discover that Rembrandt, in his later works, mixed fine glass particles into dark coloured paint. It was to prove vastly helpful to historians trying to differentiate between Rembrandt's early and late works, and between Rembrandt and his imitators.

Though small of stature, Joyce Plesters was possessed of unflagging energy. She taught and lectured extensively and, with her tremendous visual memory, retained an almost encyclopaedic knowledge of picture collections all over the world, although her special affection was for the National Gallery.

In her free time she was an enthusiastic gardener, working in the grounds of her 18th-century cottage near Lambourn. After her retirement in 1987 she moved to a village in Umbria where an English country garden was in the making on a previously untended hillside.

In 1959 Joyce Plesters married Norman Brommelle, who had been a restorer at the National Gallery when they met but, by the time of their marriage, had been appointed Keeper of Conservation at the Victoria and Albert Museum. He died in 1989. There were no children.

GEOFFREY STRICKLAND

Geoffrey Reginald Strickland, former Reader in French at the University of Reading, died while swimming on holiday in Greece on September 13 aged 65. He was born on June 27, 1931.

ONE of the foremost Stendhal scholars in Britain, Geoffrey Strickland was an original thinker in the best sense of the term, and not for the sake of being different. His intellectual energy had once drawn the admiration of F. R. Leavis, never an easy man to wring praise from. Always something of a loner, he retired as Reader in French at Reading last spring.

Strickland was an eloquent critic, both on radio and in the press, of the Robbins report and the subsequent decline of higher education. He argued that making the funding of universities depend on the number of students enrolled — a sensible idea on the face of it — turned universities into businesses where attracting students had higher priority than educating them. He cited Reading as an example, where the Russian Department was replaced by the less demanding and more popular Department of Russian Studies, which did not require the learning of the Russian language.

Born in Aldershot, the son of a regular of the Royal Engineers, he studied at Farnborough Grammar School, won an open scholarship to Downing College, Cambridge, and went on to study at the Sorbonne. Later he taught at the universities of Grenoble, Lyons, Bordeaux and Clermont-Ferrand and at the University of California.

His many books and publications include *Selected Journalism from the English Reviews by Stendhal* (1959); *Stendhal: The Education of a Novelist* (1976); and *Structuralism or Criticism? Thoughts on how we read* (1981).

He also contributed essays and studies to the *Cambridge Quarterly* (of which he was one of the founding editors), *Encounter*, the *TLS*, the *London Review of Books* and other British, French and American journals. His last published work was a review of a new biography of Zola for the *New York Times Book Review*.

Writing for *The Spectator* in December 1992 about the shocking mistranslations in the New English Bible, he said that he tried to find time to read the New Testament in the original every day "with the help of my linguistically better endowed half [his Greek wife Philothei, whom he had met in America], to whom the original Greek is as familiar as the Authorised Version is to me". Just before leaving for Greece he finished his latest book, *Poetry and Power*, a study of 17th-century classicism in France.

The autumn 1996 issue of the *Cambridge Quarterly*, devoted to F. R. Leavis, will include two of the last essays Strickland wrote. He continued to use the post rather than the phone and kept up an extensive correspondence, writing in unusually legible longhand on the reverse side of photocopies of his latest reviews and articles.

Geoffrey Strickland was high-minded and generous-minded, qualities that do not always go together. He was interested, as many literary men are not, in politics and public matters, and often to good effect.

In spite of — or rather because of — his love of France and Greece and his commitment to European culture and civilisation, he was opposed to the European Union, which he saw as a means of making the government more remote from the people, a divide-and-rule structure which would destroy democracy by uniting the rulers, with their translators at their side, and dividing the citizenry by language barriers.

He had admirers on both the Left and the Right: Michael Foot called him "One of the Happy Few". Before his death he was writing a report on possible reforms of the university system for his MP, John Redwood.

He leaves his widow Philothei and two sons.

PERSONAL COLUMN

GIFTS

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper 1847-1996 in presentation folder £18.00 inc p&p. Newsreel year videos avail. Tel/Fax 01934-412844 9pm 7 days.

THDATE Newspaper. Origi- Superbly presented. reephone 0800 906609

FLATSHARE

HOUSE TRAINED Artist seeks lodgings with jolly family or individual. Can clean brass, read aloud (ex-TV announcer / newscaster), take small dogs with tiny legs for short walks + pay £90 pw for bed and frugal board. Reply to Box No 9092.

OUTGOING writer with wide ranging interests, 60's, widow, no family and with close friends deceased, seeks woman, perhaps in similar situation to share large quiet and pleasant house with cared-for garden in Hampstead area. Advertiser is looking for an easy but non-demanding companionship from educated solvent professional woman who may still be in full-time employment. Please Reply to Box No 8768.

W8. F to share gfloor flat with gdn. Own dble room, nr tube. £80 pw excl. 0181 7418047.

WIMBLEDON Prof F to share lovely hse, gdn. Nr tube / BR. £100 pw inc. 0181 946 6839

SITUATIONS VACANT

AMERICAN family with 2 children (4 mos. + 3 yrs) needs qualified Aupair for 1 yr. Have housekeeper. Live in beautiful neighbourhood. Fully equipped, separate living quarters. Non-smoker. $115 per week. 704-334-3616 or 704-357-1342 - Fax Write Mrs. T. Early, 2201 Malvern Road, Charlotte, NC 28207.

EXP. Closer Designer. Kitchens - Bedrooms - Bathrooms. Lifestyle 0181 954 0500.

SITUATIONS VACANT

GHOSTWRITER wanted for a novel about romance, sex and crime (fact and fiction). Must be familiar with life at an English boarding school. If you feel qualified please write and state your experience and give references (which will be checked out). Reply to Box No 8983

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS WANTED

ARE you looking for a baby sitter? For day or night. Please contact 0171 3713191.

VALET HOUSEMAN Seeks London based work. Live in/out. Please Telephone: 0585 081 945.

PUBLIC NOTICES

SARGEAUNT, MARGARET AGNES, 7 Highview Close, Sudbury, Suffolk, died 10th May 1996; particulars to Biddle & Co, Solicitors, 1 Gresham St, London, EC2V 7BU, before 22nd November 1996.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

COPPING, ALICE MARY of 7 Hornton Court, East Hornton Street, London, W8 died on 16 January 1996 particulars to Mr R S Urquhart, SIMPSON MILLAR Solicitors of 101 BOROUGH HIGH STREET, LONDON BRIDGE SE1 1NL before 22 November 1996

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRUSTEE ACTS

O'BRIEN PATRICK WILLIAM late of 54 Middleton Avenue, Greenford, Middlesex who died on 27th June 1996. Particulars to Paul Adam Leak of Keith Hall, Juvilier & Co 422 Greenford Road, Greenford, Middx UB6 9AG before the 22nd November 1996.

SIMMONS, ARTHUR ERNEST of 39 Moss Way, Hitchin, Herts died on 2nd June 1995 particulars to HAWKINS RUSSELL JONES Solicitors of 7-8 PORTMILL LANE, HITCHIN, HERTS SG5 1AS before 22nd November 1996

WICKHAM, WILLIAM JOHN JOSEPH of 70 Breakspear Road South, Ickenham, Middlesex UB10 8HH died on 1 September 1996 particulars to CARTER LEMON Solicitors of 11 BIRHAMS BUILDINGS, LONDON EC4A 1HB before 22 November 1996

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUR WILL
If you are making your will please think of BLESMA. We care for all ex-service men and women who have lost limbs in the service of this country.
Enquiries to
The Chairman, British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, c/o Midland Bank plc, 88 West Smithfield, London EC1A.

How near we are to the cure...
...depends on you.
LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH FUND
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London WC1N 3JJ 071-405 0101
[illegible]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RAF RISES TO THE CHALLENGE
From 1919 the Fund has been helping RAF members, their widows and children including many thousands disabled during and since the last war; and today, wherever conflict arises.
Every year approximately £10 million is spent in assisting some 20,000 cases. Please help with a donation or remember us in your Will.
Will you rise to the challenge, too?
THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND
DEPT. TT. 67 PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON W1N 4AR.

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Please send Court Page announcements by post/fax to:
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a signature of either one of the parties concerned or a parent, a daytime and home telephone number and address.
Advertisements for the Court Page must be received two working days prior to publication and are accepted subject to confirmation.
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ON THIS DAY

September 21,1967

The QE2 left Southampton on April 22, 1969, on her maiden voyage to America four months late owing to technical problems. She is the last of the great transatlantic liners and now spends part of every year between that crossing and cruising.

PERFECT LAUNCH OF NEW 'QUEEN'

From Michael Baily
Shipping Correspondent

CLYDEBANK, SEPT. 30

The Queen launched Cunard's great new liner from John Brown's yard here today and gave her in ringing tones the name Queen Elizabeth 2. It was 2.30pm. For a full minute the towering hull of the 58,000-ton ship hesitated, then slid smoothly down into the Clyde in impeccable style.

It was a perfect launching. The air was still, the water calm. Some 30,000 people were watching. Only the gulls and the subdued murmur of the crowd broke the silence until with a succession of metallic reports from within, the great charcoal grey and vermilion hull moved down. Then there she was, sitting proudly and sleekly on the water, to be towed promptly away by the tugs.

What a contrast, one felt, with a similar occasion in France six years ago when the ship's great rival, the France, was launched. Then loudspeakers blared incessantly and a relay of speakers from General de Gaulle downwards harangued the crowd for what seemed an eternity before the ship went down.

These things are done quietly here, but no less seriously. For all the picnic atmosphere, with the Queen (in turquoise blue), her husband and sister looking very much a holiday family, children waving paper flags in red, white and blue and the lion rampant, it was a deeply moving occasion.

For no one doubts that the Queen Elizabeth 2 is the last of a long line of great Cunarders born here, and that one day she will sail the high seas alone of her kind to prove it

She was and is a compromise: an attempt to provide in one ship for the express Atlantic service in summer and for sunshine cruising in winter. Like most compromises, she may turn out to be less satisfactory for either role than ships built specifically for each.

Of the two roles — cruising and the Atlantic — there is no doubt which is more important for the future, although Cunard did not think so when they planned the new ship. Cruising is undoubtedly destined to be a growth business. The only question is: can she compete financially with her formidable capital and running costs?

The Atlantic is far more doubtful. With supersonic jets on the way it will take all the skill of the shipping men to make their voyages glamorous enough to make people spend four or five days crossing by sea . . .

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Runaway bishop scandal deepens

■ THE scandal of Roderick Wright, the runaway bishop, deepened last night as church leaders condemned his betrayal and demanded that he come forward and confess. Cardinal Thomas Winning, head of Scotland's Roman Catholics, said that he felt doubly abandoned by the disclosure that Mr Wright had a 15-year-old son by another woman. .... **Page 1**

Stage folk deplore 'racist' luvvie

■ Trevor Nunn, the director, has declared war on the word "luvvie", saying that it is as appalling and abhorrent as any racist word. "It's a word that says you are hysterical, trivial, under-educated, self-indulgent, absolutely regardless of your background, education, lifestyle or manner." .... **Page 1**

Beef ban 'longterm'

The European ban on the export of British beef will not be lifted for the forseeable future, Franz Fischler, the EU Farm Commissioner, said yesterday .... **Page 2**

'I still love bishop'

The woman who kept a 15-year secret that a Roman Catholic bishop was the father of her son said she still loved him .... **Page 3**

Toxic shock death

A woman who had her breasts enlarged died 14 years later of toxic shock syndrome after surgery to correct the implants **Page 5**

School heads quit

The head and deputy head of a London inner-city school have resigned after a campaign of abuse and lies from parents .... **Page 7**

Football suicide

The chairman of Macclesfield Town Football Club has killed himself after guiding the team through its finest era .... **Page 9**

Goose control

A fresh blitz on the Canada goose is expected after research showing they can be controlled by spraying paraffin on to eggs .... **Page 10**

Papal primacy plea

An Anglican vicar about to be consecrated a bishop has called for the Pope to be given primacy over the Archbishop of Canterbury and the monarch .... **Page 11**

War crimes fear

The Hague war crimes tribunal may be fatally undermined unless the West takes swift steps to arrest Bosnian Serb suspects...... **Page 15**

In deep trouble

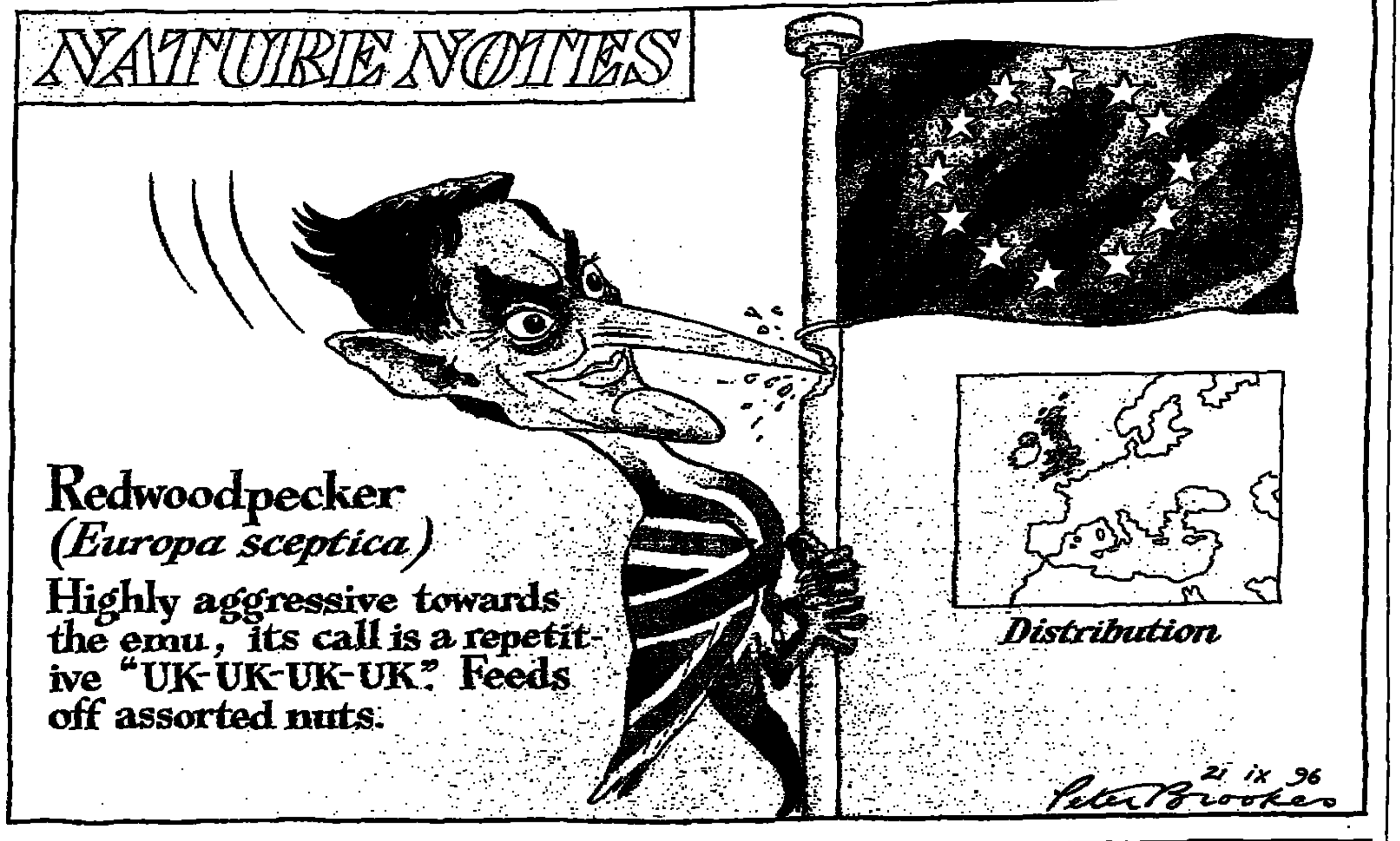
North Korean infiltrators from a stranded submarine were last night trapped in disused mineshafts .... **Page 16**

Dole plays dirty

Bob Dole yesterday launched his most personal attack yet on President Clinton .... **Page 17**

Koala vasectomy plan 'doomed to fail'

■ Australian wildlife experts yesterday condemned government plans to give vasectomies and hormone implants to the country's expanding koala population, saying that the project was doomed to failure because of the promiscuity of the creatures .... **Page 17**


NATURE NOTES
Redwoodpecker
(Europa sceptica)
Highly aggressive towards the emu, its call is a repetitive "UK-UK-UK-UK." Feeds off assorted nuts.
Distribution
21 ix 96
Peter Brookes

OPINION

The World to Rome: through his relentless willingness to travel, John Paul II has accentuated the presence of the new church membership; but the influence of that membership will have to be addressed by his successor .... **Page 23**

Born to be Wild: the Liberal Democrats ,are the Evel Knievels of British politics .... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Maxwell case and trials of fraud; volunteering in a gap year; conscious machines; perils of horse power **Page 23**

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: watching Mr Blair and Mr Major perform this week, I dread the forthcoming debate, but long for conversation. They are ill-cast as opponents..... **Page 22**

Timothy Garton Ash: anyone who cares for the real Europe is bound to be deeply sceptical about what is being done in its name .... **Page 22**

OBITUARIES

General Ernesto Geisel, President of Brazil; Graham Law, architect; Geoffrey Strickland, scholar of Stendhal .... **Page 25**

BUSINESS

Lloyds TSB: the bank is to buy out the minority shareholding in Lloyds Abbey Life .... **Page 27**

Boots: the chemist has acquired Laboratoires Lutsia, a French skincare specialist, for FFr920 million.... **Page 27**

Chrysalis: Sir David Puttnam is to resign from the media group's board amid boardroom rows ...... **Page 27**

Markets: the FTSE 100 fell 10.2 to 3964.1. The sterling index rose to 86.1 from 85.9 after the pound rose .40 cents to $1.5550 and .76 pfennigs to DM2.3557 .... **Page 30**

SPORT

Golf: Europe fought back on the first day of the Solheim Cup to finish 5-3 down against the US .... **Page 52**

Cricket: Leicestershire secured maximum bonus points against Middlesex to close in on the county championship .... **Page 51**

Football: Queens Park Rangers has appointed Bruce Rioch assistant manager to Stewart Houston...... **Page 52**

CAR 96

The model that made Rolls-Royce is being restored to original condition.

ARTS

Perils of fame: "You know the story about the dark side of fame," Richard Morrison writes. "Temptations, excesses, tantrums, addictions. Just an average morning in the Vatican, really" ... **Page 19**

Butterfly grounded: "Where do you start with a disaster on the scale of Opera North's *Butterfly*?" Rodney Milnes.... **Page 19**

Chip off old block: Michael Cooney, son of farceur supreme Ray, is bringing his own comedy into the West End .... **Page 21**

SECTIONS

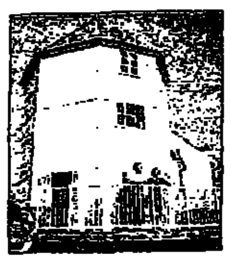
MAGAZINE

True grit: Chris Eccleston on his role as Jude **Page 10**

Strange, but true: two science-fiction writers get a call to arms .... **page 27**

WEEKEND

Second homes: buying country cottages **Pages 1, 2**



Books: Stephen Fry, Nigel Lawson, and Colin Dexter .... **Pages 12, 13**

Going out: .... **pages 14, 15**

1015

All Hart: Matthew Hart, rising ballet star, talks to *1015* .... **Page 6**

Win: in-line skates. **Page 3**

VISION

Tomorrow: *The Legacy of Reginald Perrin*, comedy series. BBC1 8.30pm

Friday: *Rory Bremner ... Who Else?* Ch4, 10.30pm

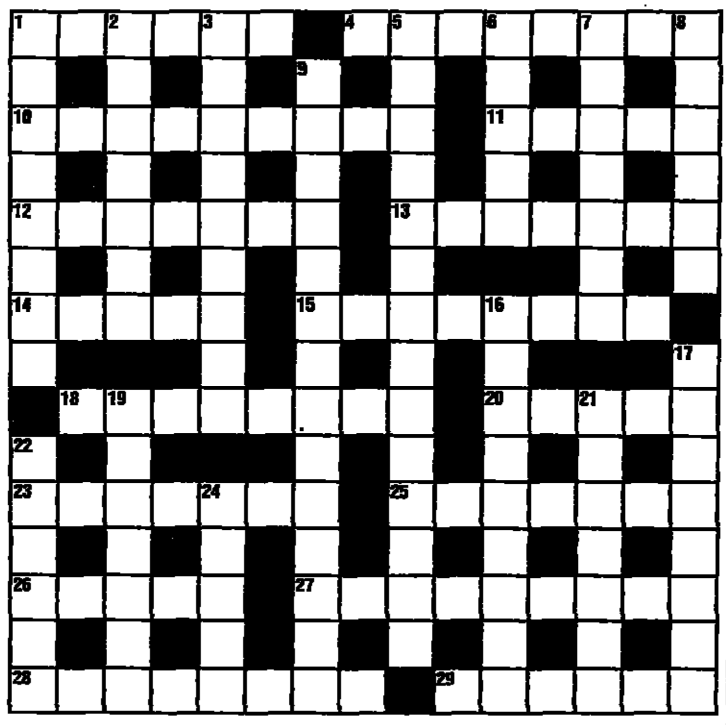
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,279

ABERLOUR

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



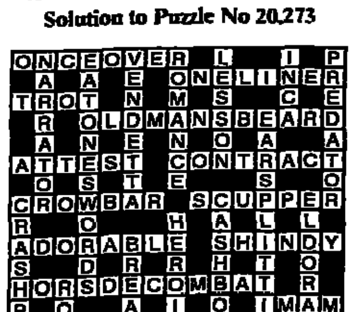
ACROSS

1 Find me book in modest cover (4.2).
4 First couple of planes caught by King Kong in New York? (3.5).
10 Epicure takes exam in European city ahead of time (3.6).
11 Religious leader whose staff worked wonders (5).
12 Firm agreement (7).
13 Race of early ship-builders (3.4).
14 Demoralise a would-be peacemaker (5).
15 Military activity – duty's to guard monarch (8).
18 With oils, a man contrived to show this beauty (4.4).
20 Finish off cosmetic treatment in part of car (5).
23 Bobby promises to pay in full (7).
25 Girl getting involved with men is a troublemaker (7).
26 Drink caught up with the old man (5).
27 Opposing legal authority in battle (9).
28 Hum, being without skills in unaccompanied singing (4-4).
29 Steam yacht goes round ocean, returning in fleet (6).

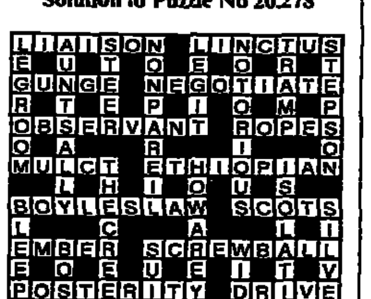
DOWN

1 Copper one degree in error – he does his best! (3.5).
2 There's nothing under this short garment, mother (7).
3 Metal ship (9).
5 Interested by pub profits, too (4.3.7).
6 A small part of journey with expedition (5).
7 Amended page with phrase, possibly (7).
8 Oscar nomination for important dramatic role (6).
9 Visionary projects found the French over the border? (7.2.5).
16 Compare edges of iron coin found in a bit of China? (6-3).
17 Work done by Lewis, always offering key support (8).
19 Performing daily, in theory at any rate (2.5).
21 Ultimately entering correct way of life (7).
22 In space, circling over polar region (3-3).
24 Authorises work – lady is ignoring the odds (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,273



Solution to Puzzle No 20,278



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *Sir Charles Gordon, Barnes, SW13; M Brown, Sheffield; M Bools, Dublin; A M Chapman, Cheltenham; M J Corlett, Thame, Oxon.*

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts, Gloucs, Avon, Soms	705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops, Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 6.45 am
Sun sets: 7.01 pm
Moon sets -
Moon rises 3.30 pm

Full moon September 27

London 7.01 pm to 6.47 am
Bristol 7.10 pm to 6.57 am
Edinburgh 7.14 pm to 6.58 am
Manchester 7.10 pm to 6.55 am
Penzance 7.22 pm to 7.09 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 6.47 am
Sun sets: 6.59 pm
Moon sets 12.45 am
Moon rises 4.15 pm

Full moon September 27

London 6.59 pm to 6.49 am
Bristol 7.08 pm to 6.58 am
Edinburgh 7.11 pm to 7.00 am
Manchester 7.07 pm to 6.57 am
Penzance 7.20 pm to 7.10 am

HIGH TIDES

London Bridge	6.58	6.0	7.33	5.9
Aberdeen	7.13	3.6	7.42	3.6
Avonmouth	0.00	10.6	12.36	10.3
Belfast	4.40	3.1	5.01	3.1
Cardiff	12.25	9.5	-	-
Devonport	11.13	4.5	11.53	4.4
Dover	4.10	5.6	5.12	5.5
Dublin (N Wall)	5.20	3.5	5.48	3.5
Falmouth	10.34	4.3	11.30	4.2
Greenock	5.32	3.0	6.11	2.9
Harwich	4.47	3.4	5.20	3.4
Holyhead	3.44	4.6	4.27	4.6
Hull (Albert D)	11.53	6.1	-	-
Ilfracombe	11.41	7.4	-	-
King's Lynn	12.08	5.5	-	-
Leith	8.14	4.7	8.43	4.6
Liverpool	4.36	7.7	5.13	7.7
Lowestoft	2.36	2.2	3.18	2.2
Margate	5.10	4.1	5.43	4.0
Milford Haven	11.52	5.5	-	-
Newquay	10.59	5.4	11.50	5.4
Oban	11.46	3.0	-	-
Penzance	10.17	4.5	11.11	4.4
Portland	11.43	1.5	-	-
Portsmouth	4.40	4.0	5.08	4.0
Shoreham	4.19	5.0	5.02	4.9
Southampton	4.02	4.0	4.40	3.9
Swansea	-	-	12.01	7.5
Tees	9.34	4.3	10.03	4.3
Walton-on-Naze	4.58	3.6	5.33	3.5

Crown copyright reserved. All tide times are GMT

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Aultbea, Highland, 19C (66F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 11C (52F); highest rainfall: Guernsey Airport, 0.58in; highest sunshine: Stornoway, Outer Hebrides, 11.4hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will be rather cloudy in the east and south. There will be showers in northeast England, perhaps heavier for a time. Some heavier showers may also affect the south coast but these should ease away later. Elsewhere, bright at times and mostly dry.

In Scotland and Northern Ireland there will be a lot of cloud in the north and west but with good bright or sunny intervals. Elsewhere mostly cloudy with showers, some heavy showers in southern Scotland. Misty in the far north.

☐ **London, SE, Cent S, SW England, E Anglia, Midlands, Channel Isles, S Wales:** Rather cloudy, patchy drizzle, then brightening from north. Showers in south heavier for a time. Winds moderate northeast. Cold. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **E England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands:** Mostly cloud, some bright intervals. Showers, some heavy. Winds moderate or fresh east or northeast. Cold. Max 14C to 16C (57F to 61F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, SW Scotland, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** Bright, some sunny intervals, mostly dry. Winds moderate northeast or east. Fine. Max 16C to 18C (61F to 64F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** Dull, patchy mist or drizzle. Winds light east or northeast. Cold. Max 11C to 13C (52F to 55F).

☐ **Outlook:** Most places becoming settled and dry, but cloudy in the east with showers.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

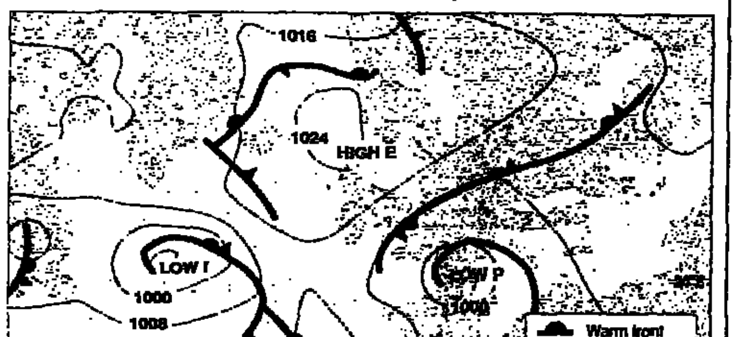
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	5.7	-	15	59	b
Anglesey	8.2	0.02	16	61	s
Aspatria	9.9	0.01	17	63	s
Aviemore	5.9	-	16	61	c
Belfast	4.1	0.01	16	61	c
Birmingham	X				
Bognor R	0.1	0.08	16	61	c
Bournem'th	2.1	0.11	16	61	c
Bristol	0.3	0.09	15	59	c
Buxton	5.5	-	14	57	s
Cardiff	2.8	0.11	15	59	b
Clacton	-	-	13	55	c
Cleethorpes	X				
Colwyn Bay	7.1	-	17	63	s
Cromer	5.3	0.01	14	57	s
Dunbar	2.5	-	15	59	b
Eastbourne	2.1	0.05	16	61	b
Edinburgh	6.2	-	16	61	b
Eskdalemuir	5.9	-	14	57	b
Exmouth	0.8	0.12	17	63	c
Falmouth	2.6	0.41	16	61	b
Fishguard	4.0	0.01	17	63	b
Folkestone	0.8	0.10	14	57	c
Glasgow	X				
Guernsey	8.3	-	18	64	s
Hastings	0.8	0.01	15	59	b
Hayling I	0.3	0.18	16	61	c
Herne Bay	0.1	0.02	14	57	c
Hove	1.6	0.01	17	63	du
Hunstanton	7.0	-	15	59	s
Ilfracombe	X				
Isle of Man	7.7	0.05	17	63	s
Jersey	4.8	0.13	17	63	s
Kinloss	7.2	-	17	63	s
Leeds	4.4	0.14	15	59	b
Lerwick	0.3	-	12	54	fg
Leuchars	X				
Littlehmptn	0.5	0.07	17	63	c
London	0.0	0.01	15	59	c
Lowestoft	1.5	-	14	57	c
Manchester	7.9	0.03	17	63	s
Margate	-	0.01	14	57	du
Minehead	0.1	0.30	14	57	c
Morecambe	9.0	0.06	16	61	s
Newcastle	0.4	-	13	55	c
Newquay	X				
Norwich	3.2	-	15	59	b
Oxford	0.3	0.13	15	59	c
Penzance	X	0.49	15	59	sh
Poole	1.1	0.14	16	61	c
Prestatyn	X	0.01	19	66	s
Ross-o-wye	0.6	0.26	17	63	c
Ryde	0.1	0.27	15	59	du
Salcombe	0.6	0.27	15	59	c
Sandown	0.3	0.14	15	59	b
Saunton Snd	2.1	0.11	17	63	s
Scarboro'	X				
Shanklin	X				
Shrewsbury	6.0	0.01	18	64	s
Skegness	7.0	0.01	15	59	s
Southend	2.0	0.01	15	59	du
Southport	X				
Southsea	-	0.20	15	59	c
Stornoway	11.3	-	16	61	s
Swanage	0.4	0.13	15	59	c
Teignmouth	-	0.19	15	59	d
Tenby	-	0.01	17	63	c
Tiree	8.9	-	17	63	s
Torquay	-	0.19	15	59	sh
Ventnor	-	0.14	15	59	c
West-s-mare	2.5	0.09	16	61	du
Weymouth	0.1	0.16	16	61	c

ABROAD

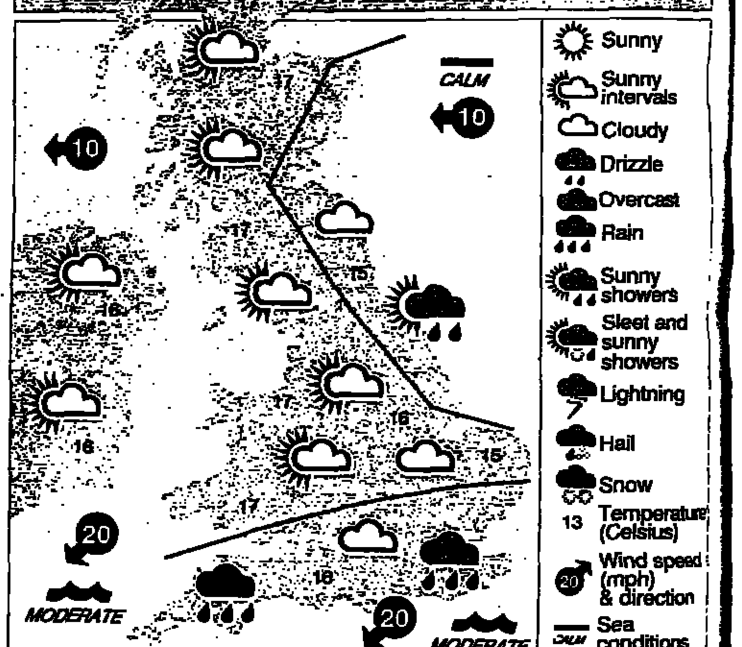
Ajaccio	19	66	f
Akrotiri	26	79	s
Alex'dria	32	90	s
Algiers	27	81	s
Amst'dm	13	55	f
Athens	26	79	s
B Aires	19	66	f
Bahrain	36	97	s
Bangkok	31	88	f
Barbados	28	82	t
Barcelona	22	72	f
Beirut	28	82	s
Belgrade	18	64	f
Berlin	14	57	f
Bermuda	24	75	r
Biarritz	15	59	r
Borde'x	21	70	f
Brussels	13	55	c
Budapst	15	59	f
Cairo	34	93	s
Cape Tn	16	61	f
Ch'church	X		
Chicago	22	72	s
Cologne	13	55	c
Corfu	23	73	f
C'phagn	13	55	f
Dublin	15	59	s
Dubrovnik	17	63	f
Faro	24	75	f
Florence	23	73	f
Frankfurt	13	55	c
Funchal	24	75	f
Geneva	15	59	s
Gibraltar	19	66	d
Helsinki	16	61	s
Hong K	X		
Innsbrck	14	57	f
Istanbul	23	73	f
Jeddah	37	99	s
Jo'burg	18	64	s
L Angels	23	73	s
L Palmas	27	81	c
Le Touqt	12	54	f
Lisbon	22	72	f
Locarno	12	54	r
Luxembg	17	63	s
Luxor	37	99	s
Madrid	21	70	f
Majorca	23	73	f
Malaga	23	73	s
Malta	27	81	s
Melb'rne	13	55	r
Mexico C	23	73	t
Miami	32	90	s
Milan	15	59	r
Montreal	21	70	s
Moscow	11	52	c
Munich	16	61	s
N Delhi	31	88	s
N York	22	72	s
Nairobi	25	77	f
Naples	24	75	c
Nice	19	66	r
Oslo	17	63	c
Paris	12	54	r
Peking	24	75	s
Perth	18	64	f
Prague	15	59	s
Reykjavik	X		
Rhodes	25	77	s
Rio de J	21	70	f
Riyadh	39	102	s
Rome	22	72	f
S Fr'isco	21	70	s
S Paulo	23	73	f
Salzburg	19	66	f
Santiago	19	66	s
Seoul	25	77	s
Sing'por	29	84	f
St'kholm	17	63	f
Strasb'rg	16	61	s
Sydney	29	84	s
Tangier	22	72	f
Tel Aviv	30	86	s
Tenerife	28	82	f
Tokyo	27	81	c
Toronto	21	70	s
Tunis	29	84	c
Valencia	26	79	s
Vanc'ver	14	57	s
Venice	15	59	r
Vienna	15	59	f
Warsaw	10	50	c
Wash'ton	24	75	s
Wel'ngton	X		
Zurich	12	54	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: low I will slowly fill as it drifts north; low P will continue its progress east towards northern Italy; high E will remain stationary and decline

NOON TODAY



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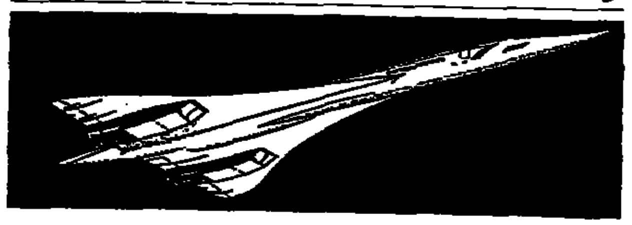

QE2 AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express to Southampton on 26 Oct. ● five night QE2 cruise to Lisbon via La Rochelle, Santander and La Coruna ● Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,699

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